

J. Campbell
Mink Lake Rd.
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Co-operatively owned and operated

postage paid at Toronto
Second class Reg. No 4224

Women and Change: A Celebration

Toronto *Clarion*

March 12, 1982

Volume VI
Number 6

50¢

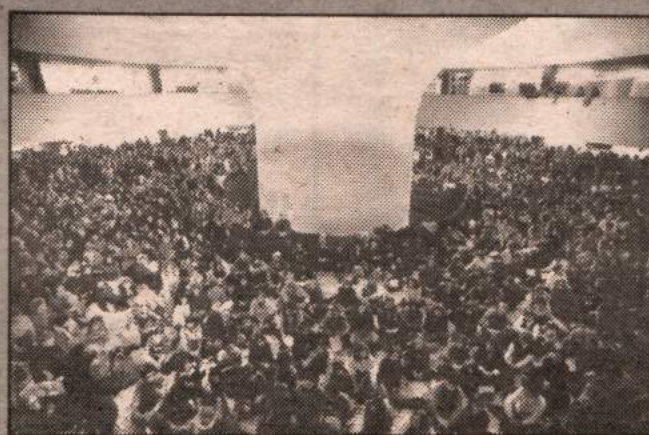


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editorial

Broadening bases

In celebration of International Women's Day we at the *Clarion* recommit ourselves to the struggles of all women organizing for progressive social change. We also know that where thousands of us marched this year, there must be tens of thousands next year.

We are living in a time of deepening social, economic and political crisis. We are faced with more and more cutbacks, more and more austerity. Everywhere women are bearing the heaviest burden and are forced to live on less and less. Most of us are either unemployed, underemployed, underpaid or unpaid. Growing number of us are forced to subsist on inadequate incomes from welfare or family benefits. New technology reduces the need for our skills.

Women around the world face these immense problems, and those who immigrate to Canada in search of a better life find many of the same inequalities they faced in their home countries, and others besides.

But women are not standing idly by. We do not want access to the executive boardroom; we want an end to poverty and an end to violence and brutality in all its forms and an end to the destruction of the environment.

And we are organizing. We are organizing for our basic human rights — a decent life, safe jobs, quality education for our children, the right to choose our sexuality, to name a few. Women are building unions on the job and groups in our communities. We are setting up support networks that help us to go on fighting.

This issue of the *Clarion* reflects these developments. In one article, two textile workers talk about their organizing efforts. Our women's directory lists many of the services, groups and organizations available to women in Toronto. Another article discusses environmentalism as a women's issue and sexism in the environmental movement. We have tried to show that the scope of feminism is broader than what has traditionally been thought of as feminist issues.

The International Women's Day demonstration on March 6 crossed those racial and income barriers which have traditionally divided the women's movement. Poor women from communities like Regent Park marched alongside women activists from health and abortion rights groups. Women from lesbian organizations joined with welfare mothers, daycare workers, office workers, women in trades and immigrant women. In Toronto we are beginning to build a truly representative and united movement for change.

Throughout the world people have been rising up and fighting for a decent life, in Africa, Asia, Latin America and the Middle East. Women play a major role in these struggles, as we have throughout history. We at the *Clarion* celebrate the variety and unity that continue to grow among us and urge women to continue despite the difficulties. We are proud to be part of this history.

Toronto Clarion

The *Toronto Clarion* is an alternative newspaper committed to progressive social change. It is politically and financially independent of all political parties and groups.

The *Toronto Clarion* is owned and published by Western Gap Communications Co-operative Limited, a non-profit co-operative.

Individual mail subscriptions are \$15 per year, institutional \$30 per year.

Display advertising rates are listed in CARD or are available on request. We reserve the right to refuse material we think is racist, sexist, or otherwise unpalatable.

The *Clarion* also operates a worker-controlled typesetting, graphic arts and process camera service. Rates available on request from *Clarion* Typesetting, 363-4405.

Clarion Co-op members are Nigel Allen, John Biggs, Dennis Corcoran, Marty Crowder, Brian Davis, Charlotte Davis, Gerry Dunn, Mike Edwards, Lynn Goldblatt, Mark Golden, Judy Haiven, Larry Haiven, Ted Hebbes, Sally McBeth, Bob McGowan, Tom McLaughlin, Alan Meisner, Norm Mohamid, Marg Anne Morrison, W.M. Pipher, Norman Rogers, Barbara Sands, Dave Smiley, Cathy Smith, Carl Stieren, Rhonda Sussman, Sue Vohanka, Paul Weinberg, Abie Weisfeld, Ted Whittaker and Ken Wyman.

The following people also contributed to this issue: Todd Harris, Richard Peachey, Francie Wyland, Bart Kreps, John Morrissey, Topo Davis, Liza Hancock, John Humphrey, Caroline Walker, Vicky Di Tomasso, Lorraine Robertson, Linda Gardner, Tony Dean, Marie Boutilier, Johnny Bourgeois, Bruce Dakota, Eric S., Bembo Davies, and many others.

Front cover photos by Marty Crowder, Todd Harris, Elinor Mahoney, W.M. Pipher and David Smiley. Graphic by Andrea Knight.

73 Bathurst St.,
Toronto, Canada M5V 2P6
363-4404



One love

To the *Clarion*:

We the members of Sistren thank you for publishing such an informative and interesting article on the work of our group in your newspaper *Clarion*. We hope you will continue to spread the good news about the improvement of other organizations like ours and women in general. More Power to you. ONE LOVE.

Beverly Hanson
Secretary
Sistren
Kingston, Jamaica

Un-est

To the *Clarion*:

Thank you for the article on the Hunger Project and EST (*Clarion*, January 1982). It really is about time to look at the alternatives being offered to the 'normal' medical and psychiatric approaches to health.

There is a definite concern amongst the 'alternative health' community about organizations like EST. I have talked to people who have been through the weekend seminars and all claim (using very similar phraseology) to have made a breakthrough in their personal lives. But then again — wouldn't you

letters

too if you had just shelled out 450 bucks.

Happily un-anaESThetised
Rob Harris
Toronto

Wood regrets

To the *Clarion*:

For the past two-and-a-half years I have respected the intelligence of *Clarion* readers, in introducing some approaches of advanced Marxist criticism in ways that make them accessible without oversimplification. I assume that interested readers can tackle ideas, attitudes and vocabulary not commonplace in bourgeois journalists' reviews: a crucial premise for the cultural section of an alternative paper.

For the past year I have been

proud to work for the *Clarion* and generally pleased with its treatment of my articles. Pride and pleasure have evaporated in recent months; I feel forced to withdraw my latest contribution, reduced by editors to a form to which I would be ashamed to have my name attached. The problems are:

1. A decision to reduce the length of all individual contributions, rendering impossible the adequate development of ideas.
2. A decision that every piece be chopped into short sentences and short paragraphs (presumably to cater to the reader's supposed concentration-span). Of *Toronto* papers, only the *Sun* imposes this. Anyone who has tried to handle complex ideas knows the importance of subordinate clauses, and of paragraphing to structure an argument.
3. Vocabulary. The editor I spoke with informed me that 'difficult' words are no longer permitted without careful explanation. Examples he offered were 'bourgeois' (from my own article), 'abstruse' and 'obtuse' (supplied by him).

I would like to know whether *Clarion* readers accept this estimate of their intelligence.

I withdraw with great regret;

Continued on page 4

Court decision reduces rights of women

by Carolyn Sambrook

A recent decision by the Supreme Court of Canada may force battered women to wait eight to ten weeks before they can obtain legal protection from men who have assaulted them in the home.

Maureen Adams, a community legal worker and co-founder of the Committee for Justice for Assaulted Women, told the *Clarion* the decisions means provincial family judges no longer have the jurisdiction to impose restraining orders on men who have assaulted women in the home. (The restraining order bars the man from the family home, and could previously be obtained by assaulted women with the help of a community legal worker within five days.)

Adams said assaulted women must now go to the county or supreme courts to get the order. In these courts, the heavy case back-log could prevent women from obtaining the order for up to eight weeks. The more complex bureaucratic procedures of these courts would also necessitate hiring a lawyer, according to Adams.

Women in the moderate income bracket will be most affected financially by the decision, because they do not qualify for legal aid and may not have

access to money controlled by their husbands.

Without a restraining order and without the necessary funds to obtain one, assaulted women may have to flee the home indefinitely while the man remains on the premises.

The Committee for Justice for Assaulted Women hopes to build up public pressure on Attorney General Roy McMurtry to change the ruling. In a petition circulated at the International Women's Day rally March 6, the group demands:

- That the courts be encouraged to have dually-appointed judges (i.e. judges who maintain both federal and provincial jurisdiction) to ensure that a sufficient number of them are available to alleviate the current back-log;
- That unified courts exist all over the province, which means that the federal and provincial courts should merge when dealing with family issues;
- That legislation be passed to make restraining orders "effectively enforceable."

Anyone who wishes more information on this issue can contact the Committee for Justice for Assaulted Women, c/o Scarborough Community Legal Services, 695 Markham Road, Suite 9, Scarborough. Phone: (416) 438-7182.



Sexuality and power in Latin America Women find focus at meeting

Last summer, Francie Wyland, a Toronto lesbian feminist, attended the first Latin American and Caribbean women's conference in Bogota, Columbia as an international observer.

The following is an account of her experiences there.

by Francie Wyland

Life for lesbians in Latin America is difficult and dangerous. The penalties range from loss of family support and children to police-administered beatings and imprisonment for "an offense to public morality."

And also because Latin America is the stronghold of *machismo*, the lesbians at the conference faced a challenge in simply finding each other, much less speaking out as gay women.

Lesbianism was nowhere on the agenda: too risky, too explosive. And some leftist women, such as the Communist Party members, considered lesbianism a "personal" and perhaps

decadent matter, not important enough for general discussion.

The news from Bogota is that the lesbians *did* organize despite all these obstacles, and the upshot was a huge, boisterous unscheduled workshop on lesbianism on the next-to-last day of the event.

Because I was an outsider, I could be open about myself as a representative of the Lesbian Mothers' Defense Fund (a resource group for mothers fighting for child custody). The other lesbians could find me and through me, each other, in safety.

I became a focus for all the urgent interest the lesbians felt about the movement here, and all the questions the straight women had been dying to ask any lesbian at all.

We met in small groups between and after sessions to interview each other. There were revelations of personal

histories, and some told of their struggles for legitimacy within the gay and women's organizations that have formed in the last few years. We strategized together informally about what we could do to make these discussion surface at the conference.

At lunchtime on the third day of the conference, after checking with the other gay women, I approached the conference organizers for a free room where we could hold a discussion session on lesbianism for all the women who had been approaching me for information. They agreed, and announced it would start in half an hour.

The lesbians came in first, in some fear, and we sat waiting to see who else would come. We expected 20 or so. In a moment the room was overflowing. Two hundred of the 250 women attending the conference came.

One after another they poured out their questions and stories. While not identifying themselves as lesbians (most had husbands or boyfriends), many made it clear they were no strangers to the experience of attraction to women.

They spoke about a lack of intimacy in their relationships with men, and how dangerous it is in South America to be altogether unconnected with men; about how difficult it is to have a love life of any sort when you're raising children and holding down a job; and about their debt to lesbians for opening up the discussion of sexual freedom as an indispensable ingredient for social change.

Afterwards everyone—lesbian and straight—felt that the ses-

sion marked a turning point. If lesbians in South America are beginning to emerge and forge alliance with other women in the fight for women's autonomy, then we can be sure the same thing is happening every-

where in the world.

I think Bogota signals a new level of strength for all of us.

This article originally appeared in *Grapevine*, the newsletter of the Lesbian Mothers' Defense Fund.

Lesbian mothers find strength in group

Despite the dangers of losing their children through bitter custody suits, lesbian mothers are organizing to combat their isolation and to defend themselves.

Since 1978 the Lesbian Mothers' Defense Fund has provided financial, moral and informational support to more than two dozen women involved in legal battles who have succeeded in retaining custody of their children, usually in out-of-court settlements.

While not always successful—they lost their first court case in 1980 — the Defense Fund has been part of a continent-wide campaign for justice which has increased the odds for lesbian mothers over what they were even a few years ago.

An aspect of the Defense Fund which has become very important is the social network of women who have made the Defense Fund their home base. Monthly pot-luck brunch meetings have attracted many mothers who are not in immediate peril of a custody fight, but who want to help the LMDF and to meet other mothers.

The pot-lucks give them the chance to talk and to find out how other mothers are coping with special concerns: whether or how to "come out" to the children, what reassurances they can give their children when they come under pressure from other kids or from their fathers about their mothers' lesbianism.

The last major prong of the Defense Fund's work is public education—through the media, speaking in schools, conferences, church groups, etc. and through their newsletter, *Grapevine*. It is written collectively, with contributions from groups in Calgary and Vancouver. Over 2500 copies are distributed worldwide.

Anyone interested in helping the Lesbian Mothers' Defense Fund, subscribing to *Grapevine*, or having a Defense Fund speaker visit your group or classroom can call (416) 465-6822 or write to: LMDF, PO Box 38, Station E, Toronto, Ontario M6H 4E1.

Pot-lucks are held on the first Sunday of every month. Donations are more than welcome!



A music break between sessions.

Women's housing co-op to open in fall

A new housing project will be underway this month, designed by women for women. The Constance Hamilton Co-op will be complete by late fall and will provide housing for sole support women with and without children.

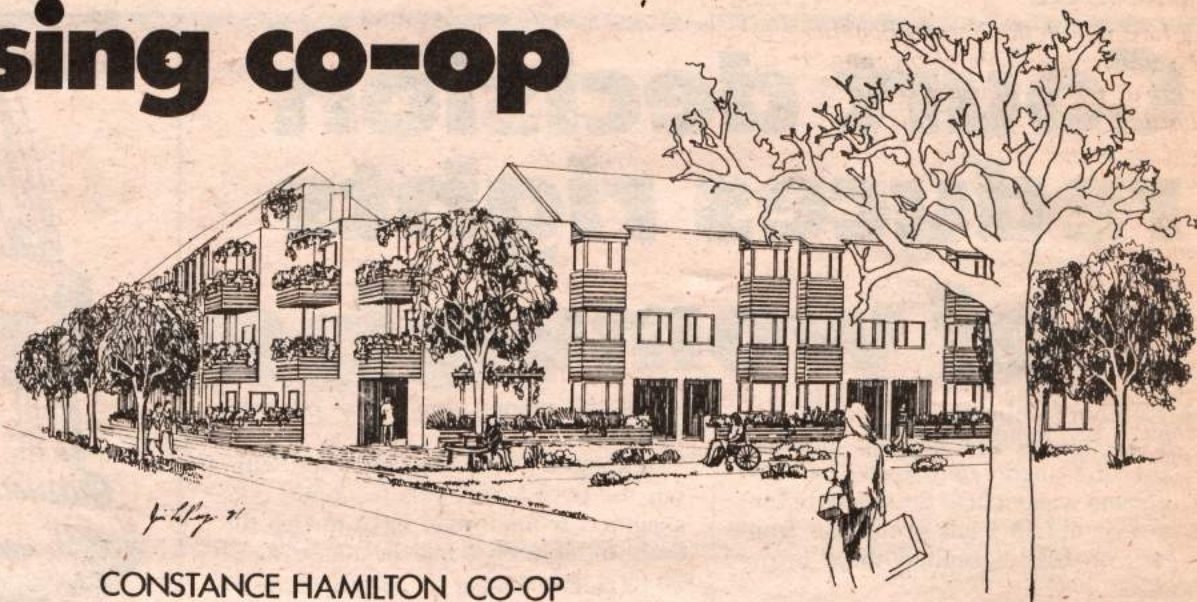
The 31-unit project near Christie and Davenport will include a 6 bedroom transition house for women leaving short-stay hostels. Staffed on a part-time basis, the house will provide a supportive environment for stays of 6 months to one year.

The co-op was begun in response to a study of long term housing needs of women in Toronto, carried out by Metro's Social Services Department. The study showed a great need for affordable housing for women. Former Alderman Janet

Howard, with several others, formed a board to try to meet this need through a co-op project. The Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation (CMHC) is providing a mortgage and is subsidizing a portion of interest costs.

One of the design features is a large open combined kitchen/dining room, a feature favoured by many of the women hoping to live in the project.

The project is named for the first woman Alderman in Canada, Constance Hamilton, who was born in England in 1862, came to Canada in early childhood, and was elected to Toronto City Council in 1919. She was an ardent suffragist, involved in the National Council of Women, and was concerned about housing for single women



CONSTANCE HAMILTON CO-OP

in the city.

One of the chief concerns of the Constance Hamilton Board now is affordability. According to CMHC's new guidelines, rents are set to compare with "market" rents for other new accommodation. Rents in other co-ops, Cityhome projects, and apartments under rent control are not considered.

Using this method, rents have been set at over \$500, plus utilities, for the two bedroom units. Rents are \$375 plus utilities, for a one bedroom, \$570 plus utilities for a three bedroom. With rents this high, it will be difficult for the project to meet its goal of providing affordable housing. A percentage of the units will be

geared to income under federal and provincial subsidy programmes.

The co-op is now taking applications, and meetings for potential members are being held. For more information and applications, write to Constance Hamilton Co-op, 523 Melita Cres., Toronto, M6G 3X9.

From page 2

the *Clarion* is the kind of paper I want to write for. But I have spent 30 years developing a personal voice, and I cannot accept that my work be "translated" into anonymous journalism.

Robin Wood
(endorsed by Richard Lippe
and Andrew Britton)
Toronto

Stand corrected

To the *Clarion*:

Concerning the status of Israel and its present policies, the February *Clarion* published a letter from Paul Weinberg with which I am in substantial agreement. In fact, I was relieved to see Weinberg's points at last made in your pages.

I must state, however, that my own letter in the preceding issue did not, as Weinberg writes, "liken the Israelis to the Nazis" but attempted rather to show up the logic of some current Zionist rhetoric, which I deplore. The only point about Israel itself concerned the recent foreign policy of the Begin government, and implied that this policy precluded the

more
letters

comparison of Zionism with Quebec nationalism suggested by Shalom Schacter in a December letter.

Perhaps those who felt, like Mr. Weinberg, that the main point of my letter, concerning Zionist rhetoric, was a "gross distortion" would come to a different conclusion if they read it in the light of my agreement with Mr. Weinberg, and taking as a case in point Chaim Goldman's letter, also in the February *Clarion*.

I myself stand corrected about the authenticity of Shalom Schacter's first name. My "Bonjour Ranger" parenthesis, intended to deflate a self-

assured name, became, when addressed to a real name, an insulting pun. I apologize both to Mr. Schacter and to the *Clarion's* many Jewish readers who were also offended. Not only was my mistake hurtful to them, but the apparent cheap-shot destroyed the very point I wanted to put across.

Alain Ranger
Montreal

Decibel din

To the *Clarion*:

I want to use your paper to object to a practice which is all too widespread on the left in Toronto. Often when I go to fundraising dances or parties for the many progressive causes, (and I think the *Clarion* does a good job keeping its readers informed of these) I find the music often too loud, too amplified and too deafening. And I do not think I am alone in feeling this way.

I look forward to the left's fundraisers for I meet many friends and fellow radicals at them. These get-togethers provide the chance to meet new friends and learn the inside story on events of interest to the radical community. But only if you can hear yourself and your partners speak without having to shout.

Like many of our constituency, I work in a noisy factory. Come my weekend, I want to get away from excess noise. The owner class gives me more than enough noise where I work. Why should the left seek to emulate the factory owners when it throws fundraisers?

Why should our fundraising dances and parties have such noisy music? Quiet and the chance for good conversations are valuable. I do not like to be deafened or forced to shout to be heard, or driven from the room where the fundraiser is being held.

Hoping this letter contributes to a re-thinking of the way we on the left throw fundraisers, I am

Yours truly
Michael Jameson
Toronto

Not hockey night

To the *Clarion*:

Canada almost started a Civil War last Thursday. I watched the first Ministers Conference on the Economy in Ottawa, on CBC TV.

I was amazed that peaceful Wm. Davis expressed his anger outwardly. The anger continued from others: Brian Peckford, Allan Blakeney, Peter Lougheed, Wm. Bennett, Richard Hatfield and the new Howard Pauley.

The climax came from Rene Levesque's bitter comments. He sounded angry on radio, but when I saw him on TV he was really turned on with his whole body. His message and his spirit sounded truly prophetic.

At this point I wondered what would happen at the Conference. I thought somebody would start bashing Allan MacEachen on his nose. Rene Levesque would jump on Pierre Trudeau and then all would get into the fight — a free for all.

But nothing happened. Everybody did what most people do after they've listened to a fire and brimstone sermon: they shake each others hands and walk out into the world as if nothing had happened.

On *As It Happens* on Friday night, someone asked, why didn't the premiers present a demand for alternatives and if they got what they got from Trudeau's scathing attack, they could just walk out? Not even that happened.

How come such anger doesn't produce action? Canada has never had a Civil War and I guess this is why we avoided it last Thursday night — a fight would be un-Canadian. We were treated to a made in Canada answer.

Don Keating
North American radical
Canadian sub-species
Toronto

Sixth offensive

To the *Clarion*:

Weisfeld's fundamental flaw is the belief that Jewish nation-

alism can be separated from the land of Israel. This can be clearly understood by way of another analogy to Franco-phone nationalism in Quebec. Any suggestion that these people should find expression to their nationalism by leaving their land and moving to St. Pierre and Miquelon would be immediately rejected.

The real question that Weisfeld poses to me is whether there is any practice and reality to progressive Zionism. The answer is an unqualified yes. It is based on the ancient Jewish principle of granting to one's neighbour what one wants for oneself. In present context it means demanding the Israeli government respect the legitimate national rights of the Palestinian Arabs and recognize the P.L.O. We oppose the Israeli bombings in Lebanon, the closing of Bir Zeit University, the banishment of Arab mayors and all other reprehensible Israeli government actions. We demand the Israeli government treat all its citizens, women and Arabs included, with equality. We support the struggle for socialism in Israel and those of us who are in Canada are active in the full range of social and political issues in the class struggle in this country. In the international sphere we oppose Israel's support of third world right wing dictatorships and we are active in the Socialist International.

I invite anyone interested in sharing and supporting the reality of a progressive Zionism to contact me through the Progressive Zionist Movement at 635-9977.

Shalom Schachter
Toronto

Vote vetoed

To the *Clarion*:

Now that elections have been scheduled in El Salvador, it may be useful to give some thought to a similar election held a year or so ago in another Latin American country with a similar history of human rights violations.

In November, 1980, the military government of Uruguay.

Continued on page 6

BRIAN ILER AND CHARLES CAMPBELL

ARE PLEASED TO ANNOUNCE

THEIR PARTNERSHIP AND THAT THEY WILL

CARRY ON THE PRACTICE OF LAW

UNDER THE FIRM NAME OF

ILER, CAMPBELL & ASSOCIATES

TOGETHER WITH:

EVA B. LIGETI, LL.B.

JAMES FYSHE, M.A., LL.B. AND

BARBARA HALL, B.A., LL.B.

AT: SUITE 201

136 SIMCOE STREET

TORONTO, ONTARIO

M5H 3G4

TELEPHONE: (416) 598-0103

AS OF FEBRUARY 1, 1982

Last month the Family Benefits Work Group had its annual meeting. It was very different this year because times are harder, people are angrier and women are stepping forward with voices loud and clear.

Women on family benefits live daily with deepening poverty and fear. We are being thrown into jail for occasionally living with a man (they call it 'welfare fraud'), the services which we have been forced to rely on are now being drastically cut, and soon they'll be transferring us onto welfare with the aim of pushing us into degrading underpaid jobs.

This year a wide variety of women were elected to the Workshop board: sole support mothers on family benefits, welfare mothers, lesbians, part-time students, and other activists. This year, too, we came together with another group, the Sole Support Mothers from Regent Park. And just in time for International Women's Day.

Poor women's demands are not just "feminine" concerns. But it is a misconception of the women's movement that women who are on family benefits or welfare are not concerned about the right to abortion or the fight against sexism. We are, but we are also concerned about having enough money for the TTC or a clean, safe play area for our children.

Our conditions are that of the beggar, and beggars can't be choosers. We have to take everything we can get or we wind up with nothing. This is the condition of our 'womanhood.'

What follows are six voices from the FBWG annual meeting sharing our concerns and our plans.



Photos by Marty Crowder

Louisa Foster, FBWG:

On February 10th I took my Shoppers Drug Mart pharmacy card and had a prescription filled at that time. Ten days later I sent another prescription with my daughter to have it filled. They told her they couldn't find the card in their files.

Because of this she was refused the prescription and I couldn't give my child her medication. The next day I went back to Shoppers Drug Mart to find out what this inefficiency was all about. The clerk insisted my daughter took the medication with her the day before.

I insisted this was not so. I demanded an explanation because I felt that this was more than just a little mistake. The clerk's attitude towards me, a single parent, was what we mothers encounter in various aspects of society. Then I demanded to see the manager who was on the phone. She made no instant effort to help me and continued to talk, ignoring me.

Then reluctantly she asked me what's the problem. I repeated it to her and she checked the matter. After a search she found that my card had been filed under my daughter's first name rather than the child's surname.

If a person has a real serious medical problem or is mentally handicapped they might not be able to make the demands I was able to. And a bad mishap could have occurred. Single mothers are now realizing that they must stand up for their rights and for social justice.

Six voices stepping forward loud and clear: "My problem could turn out to be yours"



Martha Gandier, SSMG:

The Regent Park Sole Support Mothers Group was organized in response to Frank Drea's proposal to integrate family benefits and general welfare. This action is seen by us as a threat to every woman's right to choose to stay home and raise her children. It would increase the oppression and stress already caused by poverty.

Sponsored by Regent Park Resident's Association, the group's objectives are mainly outreach, mutual support, information sharing, education and political action. At present we're planning an educational at the IWD fair. We've also designed and constructed a banner for the march.

In response to an enormous need for short-term parent relief the Daycare Committee of Regent Park Residents' Association also sponsors a babysitting co-op. Currently being refreshed with new members, the co-op is a very effective program both as a service to mothers with young children and as an outreach facility. Coupons are used in lieu of cash, each member adding to her account as she babysits and using these coupons to pay a member to babysit her children. Monthly meetings are held in members' homes, allowing an insight into the way we organize.

We've learned a lot through this work and we invite you to join us.



Arlene Mantel, FBWG, SSMG:

Society has come to view us as parasites, failures and burdens. What we're seeking is the legitimacy, our validity as women, that we lost when we had to apply for assistance.

Judgments are made on our parenting abilities by teachers, social workers and

housing officials. For many of us, speaking out against the inequities of the system was far too threatening for us to risk. But now that what little we have may be taken from us by the proposed transfer project, we are finding our voices. Anger that was formerly misdirected is now being focussed on the different levels of government where it belongs.

Community development programmes are created usually with no input from us—the people they are designed to help. When these programs fail it is chalked up to apathy on the part of the clients and never to the irrelevancy or impossibility of the programme itself.

We are not easily duped. We know when we are being patronized and we value those who patronize us as little as they value us. Our logic is sound and grounded in reality. We are very capable of analyzing our situation. And as time passes, more people are becoming aware that our analysis is the correct one.

We are talking to one another, sharing our experiences and our skills. We are survivors and our lives have made us tough and resilient.

What we haven't had is a sense of control over our lives. Our dependence on the government for our pitiful income has made that sense of control impossible.

But we're beginning to move. We know about the inequities in our courts, police harassment, racism, sexism and all the other forms of oppression. We have fought all these battles for years—on our own—and now, together, we are organizing to turn things around.



Jo-Anne McBride, FBWG:

My first year as a sole-support parent has been both scary and challenging. Scary because the traditional lifestyle I had planned was no longer available and the alternative one that the authorities want to force on me is confining and unacceptable.

The challenge comes from the forging of a new role as a mother that allows flexibility for me as a person. I know I have a common ground with other sole support mothers in this.

Discovering the Family Benefits Work Group was great in that I discovered I'm not alone with my frustration and anger.

I'm able to talk with other moms who have done what I'm learning to do because they have been sharing their experiences with me.

Now I am part of that process, able to show someone else the pitfalls as well as the flowers along the way—as far as I've come.

The Work Group is also a practical source providing my son with a warm snowsuit this winter and other clothes. This is something I participate in. As he quickly outgrows these clothes they are re-cycled back into our group's clothing exchange.

Some of my needs as an adult person are being filled by participating in the day to day office work, activities and board membership. It's a place to use my organizing skills.

The past year has been hard but I'm looking forward to the years ahead. With a firm sense of self and a support network of other moms around me, I feel I can go anywhere I want to.



Linda McPhatter, FBWG:

When I was 21 I had my own home. When I was 24 I had a home and a new baby on the way. At 26 I was out on the street with no home and no place to go.

Several years later I'm now a single parent working in and out of the house. Women must remember, while you're sitting in your nice cozy house with your husband and children all safe and warm: it could happen to you.

My problem could turn out to be yours. Women must simply wake up and at least give a hand to other women. You never know when you'll need one in return.

Most people on family benefits and welfare do not want to be there. Due to economic and social circumstances way out of our control we end up there.

Before you go to sleep tonight just think about what would happen to you and your children if things were suddenly changed around in your life. How would you cope with problems around daycare, food, housing and a low-paying job?

We want the same for our children as you do. Before you knock how we are trying to cope with our day to day lives ask yourself, point blank, what would you do?



Lorraine Robertson, FBWG:

To me the Family Benefits Work Group is my chance to express ideas and voice my opinions on current local issues. I would probably not have this chance if it weren't for our group.

The Work Group is extremely important to me also in that I can help organ-

Continued on page 19

A hundred years ago, male authority used the 'frail flower' tactic to keep uppity women down. The line ran like this:

"Women are the weaker sex; you'd be crushed in the world of work; women are the keepers of the nation's virtue; we can't let you out there on the mean streets."

The suffragette movement went a long way toward smashing that myth. In a now famous speech made in 1851, former slave Sojourner Truth blasted a smirkingly condescending gentleman of the 'frail flower' persuasion:

"Look at my arm!" she said. "I have ploughed and planted and gathered into barns, and no man could head me! And ain't I a woman?"

"I could work as much and eat as much as a man — when I could get it — and bear the lash as well! And ain't I a woman?"

When a new wave of militant feminists rose up in the mid-sixties, sexists had a new line of attack waiting for them. It's called 'blaming the victim'. And this has been a landmark year for it.

In Britain, a judge let off a convicted rapist with a paltry fine because, the judge said, the woman was "guilty of a great deal of contributory negligence." Her crime: hitchhiking.

The woman had made no sexual advances to her assailant, and even the president of the local police federation protested, "There is no law to say people cannot hitch lifts."

Her punishment: a nervous breakdown and the cancellation of her marriage.

cindy fortunata

In Ontario, a mother of eight on family benefits was sent to jail for welfare fraud. Her crime: an on-and-off sexual relationship with a truck driver who had contributed not a penny to her upkeep.

When her defense lawyer suggested that maybe the trucker who was sponging off her should be the one on trial, Judge Peter Mitchell of the Hamilton Provincial court said, "... the courts must punish women who are prepared to allow themselves to be used in this fashion."

In Lancaster, Wisconsin, a judge handed a lightweight 90 days in a work-release program to a man who was convicted of sexually assaulting a five year old girl. The little girl was the aggressor, the judge said, because she had climbed on top of her mother's live-in boyfriend while he was sleeping.

The judge called the five-year old an "an unusually sexually promiscuous young lady."

Meanwhile, the International Association for Social Psychiatry recently announced a 'cure' for radical feminism. Feminists, says the association's journal, are the product of domineering, overprotective, even sadistic mothers.

Several psychiatrists reported to the association that they had successfully treated these militant sickies and taught them to love men. Terrific. Now if somebody could just find a cure for modern psychiatry, we'd all be laughing.

While we're at it, we'd better find a cure for Toronto Alderperson Joe Piccininni, who recently said there are few female employees at City Hall because women are lazy and would rather lie in bed all day than apply for jobs.

This piece of nonsense gave rise to all kinds of hilarity among City Hall women. Some showed up for work the next day in curlers, housecoats and fuzzy slippers.

Alderpersons Anne Johnston, Dorothy Thomas and June Rowlands attempted to present the portly Piccininni with a king-sized zipper for his king-sized mouth. Still others sported "Impeach Piccininni" buttons.

In the written apology Piccininni hastily churned out to save his political butt, he said: "Can anyone really expect to have equal opportunity in garbage collection, sewer and water works, construction or other heavy, physically demanding labour?"

So we're back to the good old, tried-and-true, nineteenth century 'frail flower' tactic.

Sojourner Truth, we need you still.

From page 4

allowed the people to vote in a constitutional government of Uruguay allowed the people to vote in a constitutional referendum. The people voted almost 60% against the military regime — something unheard-of in Latin American military dictatorships. In spite of this result, however, the government refused to give up power and has kept up its usual methods of "institutionalized terrorism".

Uruguay has one of the worst records of human rights in the world. Thousands of Uruguayans now live in exile outside their own country — including here in Canada — and, in Uruguay itself, about 1500 men and women are kept incarcerated as political prisoners, in two prisons specially maintained for that purpose. Conditions in these prisons are widely known to be deplorable

more letters

from a humanitarian standpoint and have attracted the horrified attention of such organizations as Amnesty International and the International Red Cross. Just last month, a United Nations mission visited the women's prison (Punta de Rieles) — yet only 4 or 5 days later three prisoners were savagely tortured after they were falsely accused of attacking a guard.

The horrendous situation in

Uruguay is being discussed right now in the U.N. Human Rights Commission in Geneva. However, Uruguay has shown itself to be completely unresponsive to the Commission's recommendations in the past. Perhaps the time has come for more pressure from countries which value human rights and democracy. For a start, Canada's representative at the Human Rights Commission should press for a public discussion of the situation (at the moment the discussion is confidential within the Commission).

The people of Uruguay have made their will known through the same democratic process we are familiar with here in Canada. They deserve to have their will respected. Canada surely has a leading role to play in demonstrating that democratic countries will not stand by while a people's decision is so brutally disregarded.

Nicolas Anzueta
Toronto

Fraud or framed?

The following is a letter to solicitor general Roy McMurtry

and others protesting the jailing of sole support mothers for so-called welfare fraud.

Mr. McMurtry:

Fifty percent of the rental units at the Bain Cooperative carry rent subsidies, and many of our members are single parents, mostly women. We are pleased to be able to offer some degree of security in housing to sole-support mothers at a time when basic needs like shelter, food and clothing are becoming more and more difficult to obtain.

We must express our outrage at the recent arrests and detention of several sole-support mothers — all residents of Ontario — all dependent on monthly government assistance — all accused and convicted of defrauding welfare. A 50-year old mother of 7 was convicted of defrauding welfare in the amount of \$19,373. over a four year period. She was sentenced to three months in jail. A Cornwall mother of 6 was sentenced to three months for defrauding welfare of \$6,614. A Hamilton mother of 8 was sentenced to one year for defrauding welfare of \$58,620.

over ten years. The fact is that these women committed the "crime" of permitting a man to share their living space during the time they were receiving government assistance. There was no evidence that any of these men contributed any substantial income to the homes in which they lived.

We deplore the incarceration of these women. In a country where ordinary working women and men are facing layoffs, months of unemployment, inadequate housing, poor diets, sky-rocketing prices and further cutbacks in needed social services, it is shocking to read in our newspapers that poor women are thrown in jail for the crime of defrauding welfare because they have lived with a man from time to time.

We are asking for your immediate investigation into these so-called welfare frauds and the immediate release of these women. We intend to pursue this matter until action is taken.

Marilyn Churley
President

Bain Apartments Co-operative
Register your protest with McMurtry and Judge Mark Adamson, who presided in one of these cases at Queen's Park. Judge Peter Mitchell, another presiding judge, is with the provincial court in Hamilton.

Hunger

To the Clarion:

Chris Gordon's Clarion article of January 15th, 1982 on the Hunger Project provides a valuable opportunity to share with you and your readers information on the conditions of hunger and starvation on the planet and the opportunity which we have to end it.

Between 15 and 20 million people die of hunger and hunger related causes each year, year in and year out. And this atrocity occurs in a world where there is enough food to feed everyone; where we do have the technical know how and resources to end hunger throughout the world by the end of the century. What is still lacking is the demand to get

Continued on page 18



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Bundle your newspapers and place them at the curb for the Wednesday Collection, and call TRAC, the Toronto Recycling Action Committee, at 367-7850 for the location of the recycling depot nearest you.





Judith Gregory of U.S. office workers

Photos by Marty Crowder

New tech to increase output by reducing jobs

by Cathy Smith and Barbara Walsh

The micro chip revolution threatens the jobs of 20 per cent of the labour force, according to speakers at the recent Toronto conference on Technology and the Working Woman.

Microtechnology has the potential of eliminating 75 per cent of jobs in the communications, bank and insurance industries, said Fred Pomeroy, national president of the Communications Workers of Canada, and Co-Chairperson of the Canadian Labour Congress' National Standing Committee on Technology.

"Women are going to be the hardest hit by this technology," said Patricia McDermott, a social studies professor at York University. Judith Gregory of the

U.S. Working Women's Organization, cited the example of Citibank, where technological changes resulted in the loss of 40 jobs, of a total of 140, over an 18 month period.

Pomeroy said that because of the shrinkage of the job market through microtechnology, affirmative action programs for women are threatened. Women will be forced to compete with men for a decreasing number of jobs in lower and middle management.

He said there was no sign yet of the new jobs which are promised because of the new technology. He predicted the new jobs will be in professional areas and will not be available to the people whose jobs are now being automated.

Increased shift work in white collar jobs is one outcome of microtechnology. Over 25 per cent of Bell Canada operators are now part-time and these workers are difficult to organize and protect. Only 16 per cent of women office workers outside the public sector are unionized.

The situation in the U.S. isn't much better, says Gregory, where there are 12 million unorganized office workers. Even in unionized workplaces, she said, management is striving to get workers to look to them for improvements in their work life.

Quality of Work Life programs have been set up by management "supposedly to ease change," according to one delegate. "They actually exploit it," she added. Another delegate claimed management wants employees to "sell their jobs for \$25 with suggestion box

programs aimed at increasing productivity and eliminating jobs."

McDermott said microtechnology would lead to the homogenization of many different categories of work, so that most workers in warehouses, offices, production, banks and shipping will be sitting in front of video display terminals. And because the technology de-skills jobs and incorporates knowledge in the technology, jobs become meaningless and tedious.

The film *When the Chips are Down*, which deals with technological change, was shown at the conference. Commenting on the statement of one employer in the film who said there will be a greater degree of job satisfaction, McDermott said a few jobs would be more interesting, but most would not.

Employers are hoping to increase productivity with the new technology, according to all speakers. McDermott called the chip a "competitive tool of the capitalist society." Gregory cited an example of claims examiners at Blue Shield in the U.S. who had no time to think about individual cases because production quotas were tripled when technological advances were introduced.

In a study of advertisements put out by the micro electronics industry, McDermott noted that the present thrust is to introduce the handicapped, single mothers and middle and lower level executives to the technology.

She said the technology in the home was being touted as an alternative since a mother could work at home. "They have the nerve to say it will save on daycare."

Control Data has launched a campaign aimed at the handicapped using terminals in their homes. McDermott says this program was strategically chosen to avoid criticism.

Gregory agreed with McDermott and added that low income workers will not be involved in this program and these workers won't be unionized—they'll be out of sight, out of mind.

"There's no reason to believe that historical exploitation won't exist here," added Gregory.

Pomeroy said Canada put legislative restraints on unions' bargaining power and this is one great impediment to protecting endangered workers.

"Canada has the worst legislative framework in the industrialized world," he said.



Patricia McDermott (centre) answers questions after speaking at Organized Working Women conference.

Strategies abound to combat new technology

by Barbara Walsh and Cathy Smith

Delegates and speakers at a recent conference on Technology and the Working Woman were unanimous in their support of unified action to protect workers against job loss and health threats of microtechnology.

Judith Gregory, Research Director with the Working Women's Organization in the U.S. who also works with district 9 to 5, the Boston-based clericals' union, stressed the need for multi-level strategy to deal with microtechnology. She said because most clerical workers are not unionized, organized labour must join with community, university and women's groups to educate and mobilize them.

In a series of examples, Gregory showed how workers can fight back individually against the technology. She said a woman who was asked to write down her bookkeeping procedures so her job could be computerized said she was holding back some information so the job couldn't be done without her.

"We are still the centre of making this work," Gregory said. She said the New Jersey mailing list for Reader's Digest was wiped out when an operator hit the wrong sequence of buttons.

In a recent British computer strike, Gregory remarked on how 3500 workers were able to foul up a system operated by half a million employees. After this, she said, management wanted to decentralize knowledge of the system so that no worker would be indispensable.

"Information is power," said Gregory.

and she urged all employees to learn as much as possible about the technology they are using.

Gregory said her organization was attempting to organize the unorganized and bring the issues into the public realm. She also stressed the importance of organized pressure, especially in growth industries such as banking and insurance.

Fred Pomeroy, National President of the Communications Workers of Canada told delegates what is urgently needed is a strong legislative commitment to full employment. He said his impression is that the federal administration is content to keep unemployment at its present level.

"The federal government's number one priority should be jobs, and decent jobs," he said.

Pomeroy said another priority is the removal of legislation which gives management the right to make plans in secret and cut workers out of the decision making process.

He said workers should also have a legislated right to strike over technological change. The present legislation gives the right to strike when significant technological change is introduced but federal bureaucrats decide what level of job loss and deskilling is significant. He called this "a sham."

"The present clause can be bargained away so that a contract only covers workers and five minutes later automation can be introduced. There should be

no opting out of laws that give us rights."

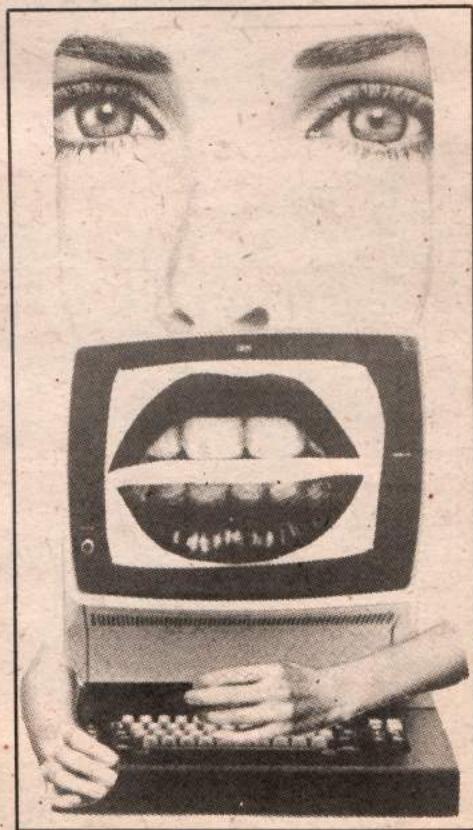
Pomeroy said legislation should be enacted to prove the safety of the new technology and ensure the protection of workers through proper lighting, adequate furnishings, and radiation checks. He said employers should be forced to create retraining programs and older workers should be protected when their jobs are eliminated through technological change.

"We're not necessarily fighting technology. We won't win the battle anyway because management has more going for them and I'm not sure we want to."

"The technology could benefit society in many ways by eliminating tedious work and shortening the work week. Our fight is to ensure maximum benefits and the enhancement of working life."

Workshop participants proposed that a coalition of unions be formed to lobby politicians and to ensure the technology benefits society in general and not just employers. The need for education, retraining and legislative measures to protect workers was also stressed.

Conference delegates were alarmed by a new amendment to the Canadian Human Rights legislation effective January 13, 1982 that allows two new exceptions to equal pay legislation. The legislation is suspended where a labour shortage exists in a particular job classification and when any change in the work force occurs where the value has decreased but the wages have not been reduced.



Gail Gelter

Strikes and lockouts

The following is a partial list of current strikes in the Toronto area. By informing our readers of the basic issues and dispute locations, we hope to encourage trade union solidarity.

Whether it is a mass picket to prevent scabs from strike breaking, or a few turns on the picket line before or after work, your physical and moral support can make a difference.

As far as we know, there is no complete list of Toronto strikes available. Please help us compile this column by sending us information or calling us about any strike or lockout you know of in the Toronto area.

An injury to one is an injury to all.

The 15 week strike by members of Amalgamated Clothing and Textile Workers' Union (ACTWU) at Perfect Hosiery Manufacturing Co. Ltd. continues. A union representative for ACTWU said its 25 members at Perfect Hosiery, who are mostly women, are striving for a first contract. The issues are job security and employee benefits. Negotiations have continued through the first week of March with no news yet of the outcome.

Union officials of the Steel-

workers Local 7105 and 9065, on strike against Automotive Hardware, believe they have discovered a spy on their picket line. The O.P.P. has been called in by the union to investigate.

The company has so far only offered a monetary package. This was rejected by 78% of the membership on February 22. The union has since said that Automotive Hardware and its subsidiaries refuse to discuss the major issue of an integrated seniority list for the purposes of



Members of United Steelworkers march in this year's International Women's Day parade.

layoffs and job posting. The issue of seniority, say Steelworker reps, is important because the company is planning to phase out one of its plants and will leave some workers with as much as 28 years seniority with no guarantee of their jobs.

The union has also filed charges of bad faith bargaining with the Ontario Labour Relations Board believing the company's last offer was not made with the intention of gaining a collective agreement. They say it was simply a manoeuvre to get a vote and thus divide workers in this 5 month strike. The labour board has set hearing dates of March 16, 17, 31 and April 1. The union will also lay charges that the "undercover provocateur" attempted, unsuccessfully, to discredit the union by inciting acts of violence and destruction of company property.

Information pickets went up

at 6 nursing homes in the Metro area on March 1 and 2. More than 1,000 members of Local 204 of the Service Employees Union (SEU) have been without a contract since March 31, 1981. The union is seeking parity with hospital workers, as their services are similar in nature. Service employees include registered nursing assistants, health care aides, cooks, and maintenance workers.

The union said that there has been a delay with arbitration. A union representative for SEU said he hoped talks would resume before April but he sees little chance of that because the last arbitrator resigned and a new one has just been appointed.

The strike at Terminal 1 by members of the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers (IAMAW) against their employer, General Aviation, is into its fourth month. The company returned to negotiations with the union but has set 5 "pre-conditions" for a collective agreement to be reached.

General Aviation's demand include the retaining of scabs who were brought in by the company during the strike. "This, along with the company's give-

back on February 19 of all money they originally offered," said IAMAW rep, Les Cole, "is not acceptable to its members nor the union." The union has since asked General Aviation for the monetary agreement that was offered in August, 1981 and some concessions.

A solidarity demonstration in support of women workers at Block Drug Company was held March 10. The company has shown "blatant sex discrimination" by allowing male employees of the Energy and Chemical Workers union the luxury of using the washroom at will, while women workers have to punch a time clock to use the facilities.

The demonstration is supported by the Ontario Federation of Labour Women's Committee and the March 8th Coalition for International Women's Day.

On March 6, members of Local 512 of the United Electrical Radio and Machine Workers of America went on strike at Trane Co. of Canada Ltd.

The major dispute for the more than 200 workers at the Etobicoke electrical plant centres around pay.

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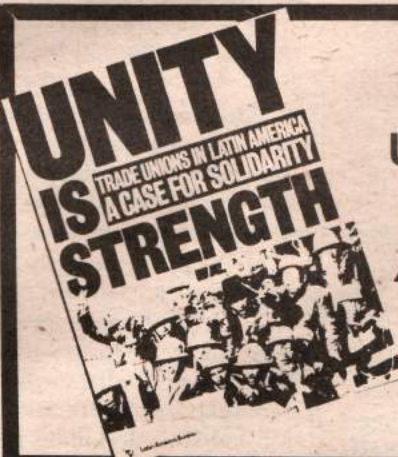
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Starting over Towards a sane contraception

by Gillian Hughes

This article suggests a cultural rather than a technological approach to contraception. Even though much of our technology threatens human culture at the most basic level, this is not a call to abandon all technology. It is a call for a new kind of information exchange built up around women's knowledge of their own and each other's bodies.

It is through this basic level of human interaction that information can be assimilated. It is from this level that we can develop a regenerative culture. I suggest we adopt this approach rather than trust in technological solutions that bypass human understanding.

Chemical dumps, DES and many other technological atrocities illustrate the appalling lack of understanding of the hazardous effects on gestation. I think we need to start from scratch.

We can't rely on medical research and population control agencies to develop an adequate understanding of gestation. New developments in population control tend to be dazzling advances in public relations and in political manipulation. It is inconceivable that this kind of institution could see itself as part of the problem: population bureaucrats tend to identify science with their well-insulated selves and see the problem as somewhere else: the Third World, the poor, the women who forget their pill.

The return to sanity means an end to the need for a constant increase in population. There have been cultures that celebrated women who did not reproduce—as teachers and healers. If we can celebrate the immense variety possible to us instead of suppressing it, there may be such a culture again.

The hormonal system plays a role in the body's constant adjustment of its metabolic tempo. The ebb and flow of energy available through the hormones is a key to "metabolic flex" which we need to keep our balance in our accelerated society. We could develop an awareness of where this flex capacity fits into the structures we must live with. Thus we would minimize stress and maintain the subtle kinds of peripheral awareness we need in order to make changes.

I have noticed this while making bread. The symbiosis between humans, yeast and wheat has served us very well, and metabolic flex on our part is what makes it work. Bread will not rise in strict, chronological time; the baker must subtly adjust her kneading tempo to the changing tempo of the yeast culture.

Another aid to understanding is to keep track of your own menstrual cycle, and also "track" disorders such as headaches, allergic reactions, mysterious accidents and bursts of irrational fear. Over a period of time a pattern may emerge that enables you to understand and accept the variation inherent in your hormonal cycle.

One interesting alternative is a method for controlling the menstrual cycle developed by an Israeli woman named Reuma Cohen, out of gymnastics, yoga and dance. Women learn to use their pelvic muscles, increasing circulation and directing the blood to the uterus so that the muscles of the uterus open up and the uterine lining is expelled. Apparently this can also be used to bring on ovulation when desired.

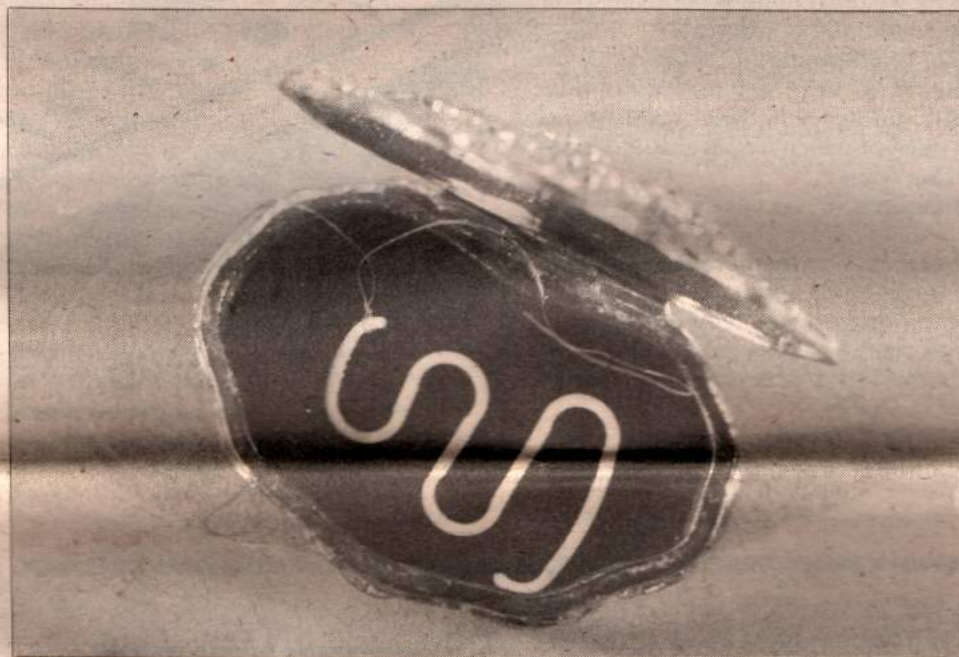
I don't claim this will prevent conception. But it will develop the kind of bodily knowledge that can assess possible conceptive methods from knowledge rather than from fear or faith or narrow practicality.

These are numerous methods employing acupuncture, herbs, shiatsu, massage, and self-or mutual examination. Some of these can also help cure vaginal and cervical infection as well as correction hormonal imbalance due to overmedica-

tion is rapidly becoming bureaucratic and politically loaded. Information sources become clogged up with ideological assumptions and manipulative jargon. It is increasingly difficult to acquire useful information without accepting loaded premises. We need something that extracts the basics.

Hormonal megadoses may "shock" the brain so that it becomes unable to coordinate the menstrual cycle.

Another thing about the increasing control factor in contraception is that



Intra-uterine device.

tion. I have no reports of success rates for these methods.

I was impressed with the menstrual extraction method demonstrated in a self-help group some years ago; this method is now completely unavailable in Canada due to paranoia about the mere possibility of abortion, or, more important, shift of control.

In *Radical Science Journal*, Wendy Holloway cites instances of community-based flexible abortion services in France and Italy succumbing to an unwieldy control ideology when abortion became legalized and eligible for state support.

Hormonal megadoses are becoming widely used to evade the political nightmare of abortion, regardless of the well-documented hazards. The population researchers who suggested Depo-Provera might not be unsafe after all for a "special population" of research subjects weren't only talking about the Third World, and they have cohorts in Canada.

The menstrual cycle is a vast and subtle interaction of events and processes in several body systems. It might be likened to an orchestra. Hormonal megadoses may "shock" the brain so that it becomes unable to co-ordinate the cycle. No one knows how long the resulting "menstrual chaos" may last, or what the effect might be of a whole population in that state.

The medical tendency is to treat "menstrual chaos" with still more hormonal therapy or with drastic surgery. It seems to me a moratorium on hormonal megadoses is in order, before we have to face an epidemic of "menstrual chaos."

One good reason to develop new ways of information sharing is that contracep-

contraceptive service agencies get so bogged down in control technology that they come to a standstill. Meanwhile information procedures spring up, sometimes corrupt and usually covert, and these covert procedures actually handle the traffic.

This is particularly true of abortion services. Research administrators need a "population" of experimental subjects: the women deprived of the service that has bogged down will be thankful to receive it as part of research, on the researchers' terms of course. The rules can often be bent in research where funding wields political clout.

Many natural birth control methods require minimal training. Perhaps we might revive the self-help group around this focus, to distribute these skills more widely.

At the 3rd International Conference on Women and Health in Geneva last June, two kinds of experimenting were distinguished:

- women trying out natural and barrier methods on themselves and each other
- large-scale experimentation on whole populations.

The latter was condemned and it is not confined to the Third World by any means. Basic research into gynecological products is a task never done. The premises are so shaky and so ideologically conceived that testing has to be done over and over indefinitely. So there is plenty of scope for healthy suspicion. But also for experimentation of the more positive kind.

Women's attempts to share their knowledge shouldn't be discounted just be-

cause the info is incomplete; for one thing, we may need gaps and uncertainties in order to be able to assimilate the information. A more polished artifice may be so complete it's indigestible. The part of you that lives your physical life can't use analytic information. It seems to absorb best what it picks up from other humans.

One fairly low-tech barrier method is the cervical cap. Widely used in England and Europe, it is now being tested in Toronto for Canadian government approval.

Researchers cite an English study showing a lower failure rate than the diaphragm, when used as the diaphragm is used: eight hours at a time with extra spermicidal jelly at each act of intercourse. The cap can be left in place for up to five days, no doubt a reason for its growing popularity, since it means less premeditation and less disruption to sexual life.

Unlike the diaphragm it is an absolute barrier and it can be used by some women who cannot use the diaphragm due to unusual uterine contours. However, it can fall off the cervix during intercourse, and the researchers prescribe the morning after pill for occasional failures.

A *Cervical Cap Handbook for Users and Fitters* is available from

Emma Goldman Clinic for Women
715 North Dodge, Iowa City

Iowa 52240, U.S.A.

The device is being tested at the Bay
Birth Control Clinic at Women's College
Hospital. They are booked up till the fall.

For information on the dangers of synthetic hormone treatment, see *Mother Jones* magazine. For natural contraception, see *Healthsharing*, also the report of the Geneva Conference. Both are available at Development Education Centre, 427 Bloor St. W.



Warning Words

- watch out for cumulative drug effects -e.g. antihistamines
- watch out for "hidden" basic research still being done on you by medications and devices supposedly already fully tested
- watch out for the hard sell on high tech approaches
- watch out for hormone therapy especially in megadoses
- watch out for therapies and services based on the premise that increased control tech will handle the situation better
- watch out for credit and financing which stipulates birth control must be practiced — this is a step toward gestational slavery



Women's aim is to organize textile trade

by Norm Mohamid

The Clarion recently spoke with two women textile workers who have been active in their union locals. Women who work in this industry are some of the most exploited and vulnerable of all Canadian workers. To protect their jobs, the women use pseudonyms; 'Mary Johnston' is from the Canadian Textile and Chemical Union (CTCU) and 'Jane Martin' is from the International Ladies and Garment Workers Union (ILGWU).

What are the most important struggles for women in the Textile industry?

Mary Johnston: One of the most important things is working conditions because that's where we are 8 hours a day. It means the work environment and also the pace of work because they are always pushing us to go faster and faster. There is no respect for our work and we get no respect for what we do.

Is this because most textile workers are women or is it just because you're workers in this industry?

Johnston: I think it's just because we're workers, period. But because of the way the jobs are classified, the men have the higher paying occupations like mechanic and so they have more skills and get more recognition. Also women get less because they're in job ghettos.

Martin: First, I think the most important thing is for unorganized places to get organized. Ideally I like to be in a trade union situation because that means the possibility of more control over the way we work, how we work, when we work, what we do and the pace we do it. That means a democratic situation with a high level of militancy and participation.

Do you agree that there is job ghettoization in the industry?

Martin: For my part I've worked on the factory floor and in the office situation. Usually you find men in the higher paid positions in the office and also on the factory floor since the men are the pressers and cutters. I think the amount of respect is more for those people than women because of the job they do. That doesn't mean women are any less able.

Were there any feelings of solidarity between the women in the office and the women of the shop floor?

Martin: I would say in my experience, none at all. Women who work in the office feel they are better off than the women on the shop floor. The connotations of working in the factory are that the work is dirty, boring and has little skill. The connotations of working in the

office is that the work is professional but the women in the office also feel some sympathy for the women who work on the factory floor. I was in a payroll position and I was constantly seeing factory women being humiliated and fired, and you know how much they are being paid and how hard they are working.

What are the feelings from the other side?

Johnston: Well, there isn't much contact. You might meet them once or twice a day. They're sort of nicely dressed and we have to wear crummy shirts and pants so our clothes won't get dirty. Otherwise we don't think about them much, they're not part of our reality.

The average starting wage in the industry is not very high regardless of the union you have. Is there anything you can think of which would ensure a better starting wage?

Johnston: In our contract we've done something by pegging the starting wage to our wages, so many cents below. This wasn't handed over to us, we got it right at the end of negotiations. It isn't very much right now but we thought it was important to establish the principle for later contracts.

Martin: I think the number one priority is 100 per cent organization of the industry. I look at the trade like my husband works at and it's probably 98 per

Piece work is a carrot and stick affair. The women work enormously hard to make that little bit extra. The company takes a great, great profit.

cent organized. Their wages are quite a bit higher than ours are. I'm not saying the wages are good for the job they do but their benefits are tremendously better than anything I've ever seen in the garment industry.

You're husband's union is for a mostly male workforce. Is there any link between his benefits and the fact that the textile industry employs a mostly female workforce?

Martin: It probably does have something to do with it and historically we have been underpaid. Certainly the potential for women to become militant is clear. If the unions were more democratic there's nothing stopping women



from improving their own working conditions. There's probably more obstacles to overcome being women, I think.

Would part of the move towards democratization include active encouragement of women seeking executive positions in your union?

Martin: It's essential, yeah.

Johnston: In our union, women are more active and they hold most of the executive positions. These women tend to be single or single mothers or they have really supportive husbands. Otherwise the women might say "Oh my husband won't let me." So the most active women don't have that extra pressure at home where their husbands are holding them back.

Do you feel you've accomplished any significant changes in your workplace?

Johnston: The first time I was asked that question it really bothered me because I couldn't rattle off a whole list of accomplishments. They weren't noticeable and the company has a way of hiding our victories from us. For example, we put in a grievance about the pace of work because they don't respond. And when they do respond, they say we're going to produce a different style of garment at a slower pace of work, and they make it seem coincidental that they are responding to our demand. This way it's hidden from us and it's harder for people to see our victories. Once I started seeing this I started claiming our victories no matter how small.

Is daycare for working mothers a major part of the struggle?

Martin: I think so. I know a story of a mother who worked part of the week so that she could stay home and take care of her children. It didn't pay her to work full time because daycare was so expensive. It's difficult if you haven't got a good

contract and you have to stay home because your baby's sick.

What's been left unsaid?

Martin: Well, I think piece work is an awful thing and it's a real dilemma for me because the union, at a high level, thinks it's a good thing; I can't condone it but I can understand why. Often the women who work at a piece rate (who get paid by the number of garments they make) make more money than women who work at an hourly rate but that doesn't explain the whole picture.

Piece work is a carrot and a stick kind of affair. The women are working enormously hard just to make that little bit extra. It's an area in which the company takes a great, great profit. I think it's hard on women's health and it's extremely stressful. I think an hourly rate is much fairer. The other thing it does is divide workers. There's not only the division between pieceworkers and hourly workers, but also it pits pieceworkers against pieceworkers because it's a competition. It's very destructive.

Johnston: One obstacle we came across in fighting piecework is that to really fight it, it would take a cross-industry campaign because we were told by the company that piecework was needed to compete with the other major competitors because they were all on piecework. So to fight an issue like this it has to be industry-wide, otherwise we might strangle ourselves individually.

What are the chances of such a campaign among the unions considering the bitter state of affairs between the Canadian Labour Congress (CLC) to which the ILGWU belongs and the Confederation of Canadian Unions (CCU), of which the CTCU is a member?

Martin: Well even within the CLC there's an enormous amount of rivalry and I would say there's very little chance. If there's going to be a big co-operation, it's going to come from a rank and file push, not from the hierarchy of the unions that I know of. They're the ones who seem to be carrying on a personal feud. The rank and file recognizes that they are all doing the same kind of work and work in the same conditions. They have everything in common and I think that's where the push for cooperation will come.



Expelled "radical" domestics fight the Filipino right

Progressive women in Toronto's Filipino community have been making phenomenal organizing efforts in the past two years. Repression and economic hardship at home under the right-wing, American-backed Marcos dictatorship forced many to come to Canada as domestic servants.

Here, they have been fighting for fairer immigration laws for domestics (immigration minister Lloyd Axworthy recently yielded to pressure and made landed immigrant status more accessible to domestic workers.)

At the same time, they have been battling the opposition from the right wing in Toronto's Filipino community, and are attempting to alert Canadians to our government's complicity in supporting the Marcos regime.

Recently, Judith Ramirez of INTERCEDE, a lobbying coalition for domestics, spoke with three women active in these struggles: Fely Vilasin-Cusipag, the co-ordinator of the Toronto chapter of the International Association of Filipino patriots (IAFP) and the Coalition Against the Marcos Dictatorship (CAMD), Zeny Dumlao of the Philippine Women's Guild, and Coco Trape of the Ad Hoc Committee of Filipino Domestic Workers for Landed Status and the INTERCEDE steering committee.

Judith: Let's begin with the Ad Hoc Committee of Filipino Domestics for Landed Status. Why was it such a big organizing effort in your community?

Fely: The influx of domestic workers into Canada from the Philippines started in 1979 to 1980. In Toronto alone there are probably 3,000 Filipino domestics.

Judith: Why did they come to Canada as domestic workers?

Zeny: Because of the poor economic conditions at home. Most graduates can't find jobs, so they're forced to come over and accept these domestic jobs to live.

They can no longer come as nurses or teachers, but they can come as domestic workers: this is the open occupational category.

Judith: You got thousands of names on the petition to Axworthy (demanding landed status). It was an enormous amount of work and very successful. How many women were in your core?

Fely: The core itself was very small — about 10 people. And then more who came regularly to meetings, perhaps another 80 women.

Judith: How will the changes in the immigration policy affect the flow of domestic workers from the Philippines?

Fely: The new policy assures that each domestic must work in that field for at



Fely Cusipag

least three years, even the women coming as landed immigrants. The guidelines say that immigration officers don't have to be very strict during the first year, but in the second year they will be putting them under the microscope. Processing starts in the second year and takes up the third. After that you are in or you are out. So there are three years where there will still be indentured labour. Still, it's an improvement.

Judith: What is happening now with the Ad Hoc Committee?

Zeny: We've disbanded, because the

democratic way we did everything so that no one person was pressured.

Fely: In disbanding the Ad Hoc Committee, all the executives talked about the lessons they'd learned. Everyone stressed the importance of unity among ourselves. This was tested many times because there was a lot of anti-Communist labelling from the Filipino right wing; there was a lot of provocation; a lot of rumour-mongering. Before each of our three rallies there were a lot of threatening phone calls: "You're going to be deported", "You're going to lose your

There were a lot of threatening phone calls: "You're going to be deported"; "You're going to lose your job"; "You're going to be blacklisted."

campaign is over. We can regroup again at any time around another issue.

Fely: The IAFP is proposing that the two Filipino community centres take on the service and advocacy work (for domestics applying for landed status). They are the Kababayan Community Centre and the Silayan Community Centre. We've also asked them to work closely with INTERCEDE.

Judith: Can you sum up the lessons you've learned in the Ad Hoc Committee?

Zeny: I learned a sense of being united. Being myself on a work permit gave me a lot of determination to work with the other members and get the campaign done. I enjoyed and felt proud of the

job", "You're going to be blacklisted". And this is why Zeny stresses unity.

We were well organized. We had five things we set out to do: organize a petition campaign, a letter-writing campaign, raise funds, go to Ottawa to see Axworthy and go into militant mass actions, the rallies.

The Filipino domestic workers are mostly from the middle class at home. Most of them are not used to mass actions. In the Philippines, if you go to a protest rally you're risking your life. The main thing the committee had to do was to get the community to fight for landed status.

Coco: To carry out the community education, we went to every activity to talk about landed status ... in the socials, picnics, etc. We used every occasion to get signatures on our petition, every occasion.

Judith: There's also been an important development in the formation of the Philippine Women's Guild and the break with the Filipino Homemakers' Association (FHA).

Zeny: I was expelled from the FHA on grounds of undermining it by joining the "radicals" of the IAFP in the Ad Hoc Committee for Landed Status.

Judith: You were one of the founders of the Homemakers' Association.

Fely: She was the first president!

Zeny: Yes. One week before the delegation to Ottawa, Dr. Portugal (an advisor to the Homemakers' Association) advised us to stop our plans for the rally and delegation. In front of all the officers of the PHA he told me that all we would get from Axworthy was S.H.I.T. I replied

that we were going, and we would not come away with just shit. Dr. Portugal said that the actions we were taking would only endanger us further. "You're only here on a working visa," he said, "You can't make any public protest."

Others called domestics before rallies, warning them against going. One even called an employer: "I would like you to warn your domestic not to join the rally because you will lose your housekeeper if she attends."

Zeny: Because, first, the name of the FHA has no credibility with domestic workers now ... I knew we could form a bigger, new organization. Most of the former officers of the FHA are with the Women's Guild now.

Judith: How many members did you begin with?

Zeny: About 80.

Judith: Are most of them domestic workers?

Zeny: One hundred per cent. No more advisors!

Judith: All this is obviously part of a larger picture in the Filipino community. Who is Dr. Portugal? What political role is he playing?

Fely: Dr. Francisco Portugal is part of a small group of "leaders" in the Filipino community. They are very conservative and they revolve around the Philippine consulate.

The chief division within the Filipino community is based on what is happening in the Philippines. Because of its class character, the community is fairly conservative and passive. But the IAFP is sure that for all its silence, there is a strong anti-dictatorship, anti-Marcos feeling in the community.

But we're finding we can't just organize the Filipino communities here to look homeward. We have our own problems here in Canada and the U.S., problems that the IAFP has highlighted in its work with domestics.

Judith: Looking at your community newspapers, the right wing is extremely active and aggressive.

Fely: That comes from the fact that we have done very good work. If we were peripheral to the community they would ignore us. We have growing support for the resistance. One occasion when the progressive resistance is manifested is on June 12 each year, Independence Day in the Philippines. It has always been the occasion for independence balls, with the consulate right in the middle of things; when President Marcos sends his messages to all the Filipino communities abroad.

But wherever the IAFP is active, we've

Continued on page 20



Zeny Dumlao and Coco Trape



Judith Ramirez

Women of Steel: for

Jennifer Penney is a freelance writer. Judy McClard is an editor with Women's Press. This article is part of an interview with steelworker Cathy Mulroy, taken from their forthcoming book, **The Struggle for Good Work**, a book of interviews and photographs of working women across Canada.

It's a cold October afternoon. The Inco smokestack dominates the landscape as we walk across the parking lot to the copper refinery warehouse. Inside, it is dark and warm. A supervisor joins us, gestures across the empty space to a loading dock. A figure breaks away from the workers there and saunters across the floor toward us.

"Hiya," she says. She's younger and smaller than we expected, with a mass of hair flying out from her hardhat and an ear-to-ear grin. In her tight overalls, safety hardhat and boots, she provides a striking contrast to the public relations lady who has accompanied us, and whose makeup and high heels are out of place in the cavernous building.

Cathy Mulroy turns to the supervisor. "Well, are you going to put me on the east so they can take pictures or not?" The supervisor looks uneasy. The challenge is obviously not a new one, but it is clear he'd rather not discuss it in front of us. They argue anyway, the supervisor citing safety rules, Cathy finally getting her way. She turns to us and winks heavily as we cross the warehouse towards the area where molten copper is cast into moulds. She has enjoyed winning this skirmish.

Later that evening she talks to us over her kitchen table.

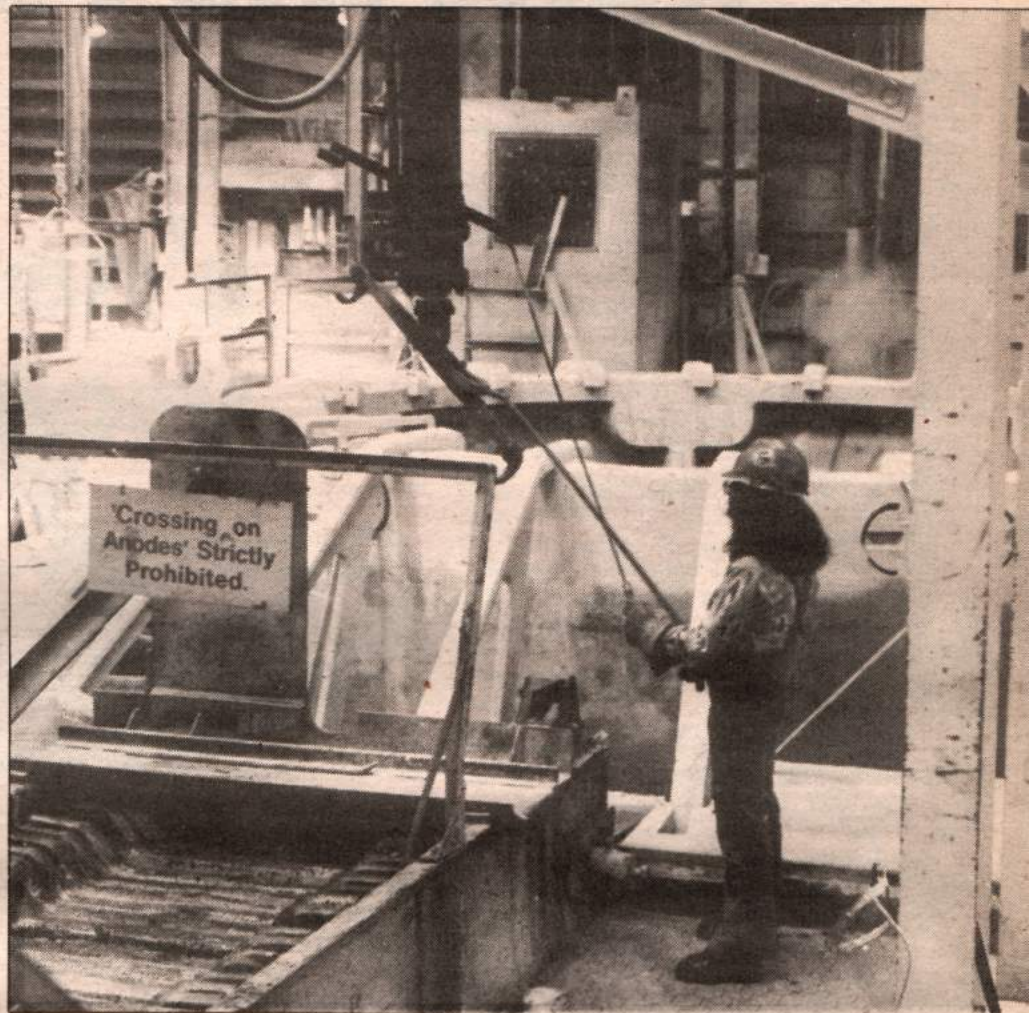
I've lived here in Sudbury all my life. I come from a family of five kids and one adopted. I went to high school up to grade nine. I tried that twice. And then I got pregnant when I was sixteen years old and because both of us came from such Roman Catholic backgrounds you automatically get married ... We were very poor ...

I was putting up wallpaper at home one day when Trudeau came on the television and said Inco would be hiring women. So I said: "What the hell. What can I lose?" It was in 1974, the year before International Women's Year. The reason they had to hire was so that they could look good that year. So I went down there and applied and got the job,

right off the bat ...

When I started working there I realized all the dangerous things my dad used to go through. They put me on the east, the hoist that you saw me on today. I'd been there about six weeks when that broke on its way down. It weighs about twelve hundred pounds. It came towards me, hitting me in the side. And I went flying backwards and that's how I found out I was pregnant. I was rushed to hospital where they took a blood test first of all and came back about twenty minutes later to tell me I was pregnant. My reaction was: "What! From the hoist? Compensation!" Happened on the job ...

Six weeks after I had the baby I went back to work on the east. I stayed there



for a long, long time. And shitty jobs? Like you wouldn't believe ...

They wanted to get rid of us. They didn't want us there. The men were so threatened. They're still threatened, even after six years. They used to say: "What do think you're doing here anyway? This is no place for a woman ... Don't you know that you're taking away a man's job? A man has to support his family." And I'd think: "Well, maybe I am ..." But then I'd think: "Well, jeez, I'm supporting a family too. I'm here because I've got grade nine education and most men that work in Sudbury with that education work in the mines, so why can't I?"

I'd get threatening phone calls. Like: "If you don't get off that job, something just might happen." Really horrid things ...

At first I isolated myself. I tried to stay away from the men as much as possible. I just wanted them to know me as their co-worker. I didn't want them to know me as Cathy. Now, most of them know me as Cathy. I'm their friend or their daughter or their sister, part of the family that's there.

But at first they used to watch you constantly. Every little thing that you do. And you don't get respect just by getting it. You have to earn respect. Once you've earned it it's not usually lost because you fought for it by standing up for yourself, handling your own load ... If they can't handle it they're no good to you either ...

Another thing was, a lot of the guys cheered me on sometimes. There was this one job called "skimming the furnace" which is a really hard, hard job. You had to lift this gigantic pole which looks like a rake, but doesn't have any picks on it. It's just solid. And you'd stick it in the copper and skim the top off it. There would be chunks and bricks floating around in there, you name it. I decided to give it a try.

I couldn't even lift the pole up, that's how heavy it is. And you have to soap it up so it slides along this bar while you skim. The guys lifted it up for me. A guy gave me a big asbestos thing you tie around your feet. I must have looked like a robot because I'm only five-foot-one. And I got on there and started to skim, and believe me it was like pulling a train.

It was the graveyard shift, and the guys started coming out of the lunch

room. And they lined up on the tracks right beside where I was skimming. And they were chanting: "Go, go, go, go." It just made me want to do it all the more. Like the Hulk. I had that inner energy. And I just did it. And finally when my pot was full they went: "Yea. Yea." Clapping on the tracks. And I turned to the foreman, proud, and I said: "I knew I could do it."

The guys were there. If you really needed them, they were there. You gotta

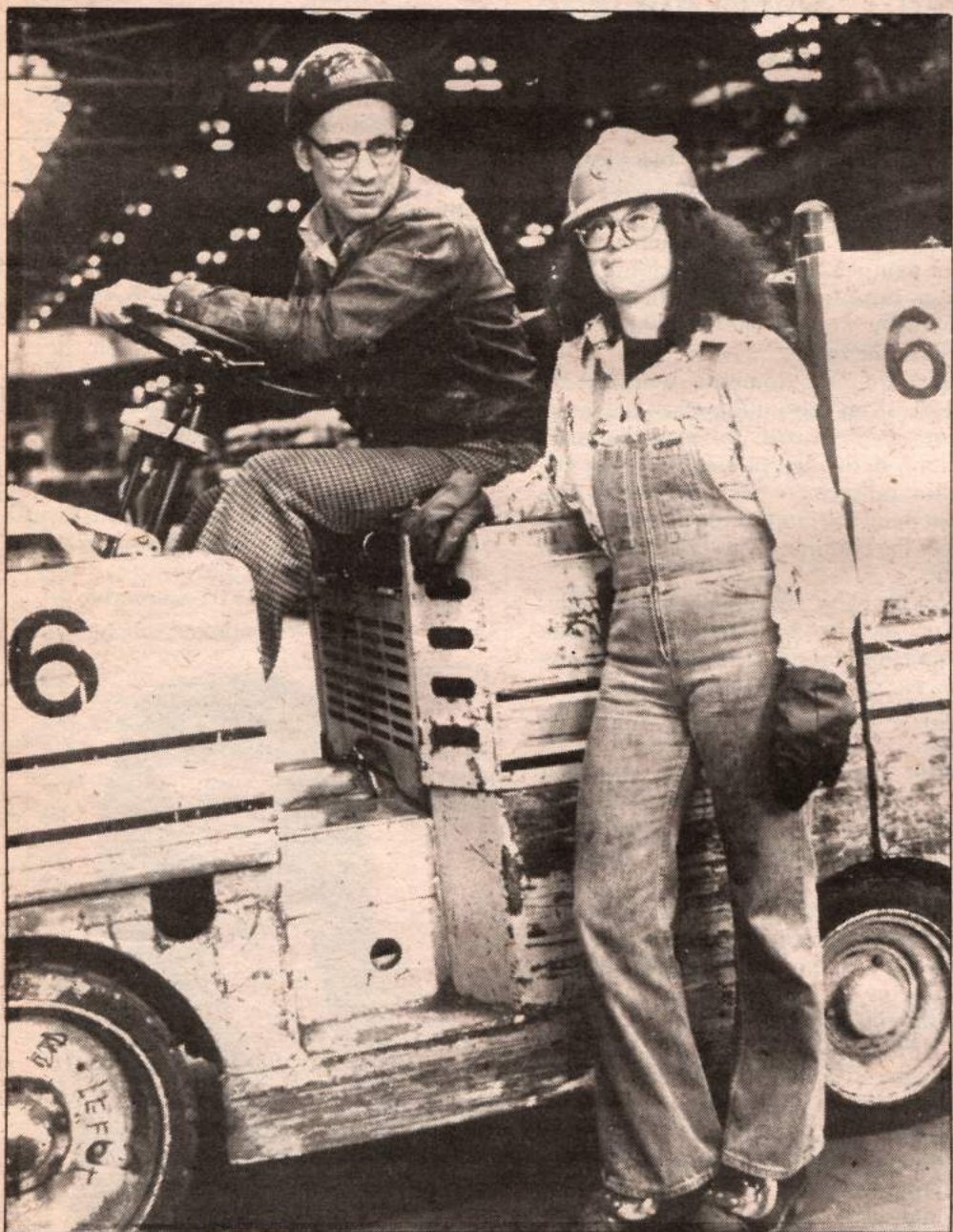
Unionist pushes f

by Bev Brown

For the past six years I have been a Steelworker. My work is in light industry at Inglis Ltd. My job is an assembler. Inglis is the largest local of the United Steelworkers of America in Toronto, with 750 members of whom 33 per cent are women. Within our local, women hold less than 1 per cent of any executive positions including the steward's body.

In 1980 I attended the Ontario Federation of Labour (OFL) Women's Forum, where there was a discussion about the need for women's committees at the local level. At Inglis we were fortunate in that the company was not discriminatory in its hiring practices or in wages. However, the women in our local had little voice in the union even though they represented one third of the membership. There was a great deal of apathy on the part of Inglis women who seemed to be content to let the union be run by the men.

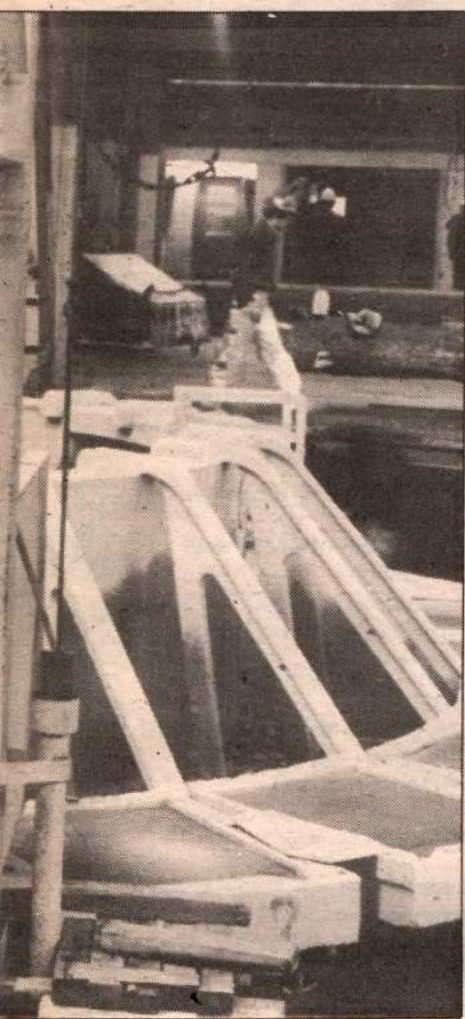
There were no resolutions relating to women's issues such as day-care, maternity leave, affirmative action or the need for a women's policy conference. At negotiating time, women's issues were the first to go. Also, educational materials relating to women's



Cathy Mulroy with a co-worker.

Judy McClard

giving a new life



Judy McChard

tap into the solidarity. It's there ... They can say anything to me now ... pretty well. But now they never, never talk about my body. Before, it was constant. I don't even wear a bra at work anymore. I wear tee-shirts. And I'll be damned if they'll tell me to wear one because I have breasts. If I have to wear one, every fat man in there's going to have to wear one too.

I've got this thing about foremen being little Hitlers in the world ... They used to

follow me around when I first worked there. If I went to the washroom they used to stand at the bottom of the stairs. And of course I was scared ... One day I decided to have lunch with the women, which I wasn't allowed to do because they were eating up in the (change room). And so I had my little bag — I don't bring a lunch pail — and I was going upstairs when the general foreman grabbed my arm and says: "Where are you going with that bag?" I says: "I'm going upstairs." "Why? What's in the bag?" I says: "You don't want to know." He says: "Yes I do." "It's a used Kotex pad." And he just turned around and walked away ...

Near the beginning I had gotten blisters all over my feet from my work boots and I wanted to go to first aid. The foreman says: "No, you can't go." I realized that there was going to be a battle between me and this man. Out there in the yard he says: "Your boots — I don't know how they could be hurting your feet. Mine aren't even worn out and I've been here for 20 years with the same pair." I said: "But the seat of your pants are pretty worn." That did it right there. I ran into more shit!

I'd been working at Inco two years before I knew what a union was. I thought a union had something to do with the banks. Like credit union. I remember having some problem with work. Somebody said: "Go to the union hall and talk to Patterson. Patterson was the president. He's not much older than I am. Now we're good friends he's told me that the first time he saw me he thought: 'Oh-oh, a girl in blue jeans. Here comes trouble!'..."

There was this course that the union was putting on, an occupational health school for a week in Hamilton. I was always interested in safety and health because of my dad's condition. He's got

whitefinger syndrome — his fingers are numb and hard to use — because he was working on a drill most of his life, being a blasting captain. He got hurt one year and I seen the pain on his face. He was paralyzed. You'd ask him a question and he'd put his hand to his ear just like an old man and ask "What? What?" And you knew it was because of the environment he worked in. Now I'm an alternate on the safety and health committee. Have been for three years.

I started getting active, going to union meetings. I liked them until around 10 o'clock at night and then they started getting argumentative and silly. You know, "You're not in line anymore." "If you want to talk, talk to the mike." I thought: "Aw jeez, this is not a union meeting. A union meeting should be everybody that's talking about grass-roots." Who cares if \$10 are spent on the boy's home or \$15 to this or that? That's not union ...

In '78 we went on strike ... It was horrible at the beginning. Everybody was against us. Totally. Because they knew it would cripple the whole city. It's the only industry here. In the media we were always in the wrong. I thought: "Hey, wait a minute. We don't want to get four cents over three years and a cut in our grievance. All we got is our grievance procedure."...

We had cutbacks that year, massive layoffs. It was just unbelievable. Six weeks the plant was shut down in the summer and then a big strike. Who in hell had money to strike? They just put us against the wall. There was no other way out but striking ...

I think what really ran the strike was a handful of people ... The men and women who worked together became a whole family ... They started me off making sandwiches ... putting all these egg sandwiches together for the picket



line ... All those eggs! I went to Patterson and said: "Put me on a committee please. Get me out of here."...

The strike was the best thing that ever happened to me, really ... I found out who I was, that I can do things on my own ... I started giving speeches in different places. The first time was in Toronto, for a strike benefit ... I had this giant headache and I was scared because I'd heard that the auditorium held about 500 or more people. And I thought: "Oh my God, I can't do something like this."

... So I called Patterson and said: "Do you think you guys can come down and listen to the speeches?" "We're still in bargaining. We're not going to be able to make it." But we left seven or eight seats just in case they could come. We were up on stage when I walked Patterson and seven guys on the bargaining committee. Well, I'm telling you, it was like giving me a million dollars when that happened.

I couldn't wear my shoes because they had kind of high heels and my legs were wobbly. So I took them off. I went up and gave my speech and everybody was cheering and yelling. Patterson stood up and said: "I know we're on strike, but you can't be that poor not to wear shoes." This is in front of all these people. So he took his shoes off and threw them up and I'm still at the podium and I put them on, these big shoes and say: "See Patterson, I can still fill your shoes anytime." Everything was laughing and easy and really good ...

Cathy Mulroy's story will continue in the next issue of the Clarion.

slams apathy, feminist issues

were not reaching the partnership. I introduced a resolution to form a Women's Committee within our local to educate men workers and to push changes. The men in the local feel there was any need for a committee but after great discussion the resolution was passed. In '81, I was asked to work as the Toronto coordinators Dave Patterson campaign. It addressed clearly many issues about which I was deeply concerned, particularly for better representation at the local and all levels of the USWA and the need for an autonomy.

As while working on his campaign that I had the opportunity to speak with representatives from all over Southern Ontario. It was encouraging to find that, unlike Inglis, many men held executive positions in their locals. However, time and time again I heard from women, the president of a small local, that "our local has no representatives to send representatives to training courses, worker education courses or conferences."

I found that working conditions for women in some of the locals were abominable. They didn't even have proper

washroom facilities. It became evident that there was a great need to work toward directing more educational materials to these small locals and to move toward greater participation by women in the union as a whole.

The Women's Committee has only one visible effect here at Inglis and that is that all of the women who form the committee are running for executive positions in the upcoming elections. Hopefully we will then be in positions where we can effect real changes in our local.

Recently, a new committee, Steelworkers' Toronto Area Council — Women's Action Committee (STAC-WAC) has been formed to work with other women's committees within the trade union movement and also outside of labour, to address women's issues — strikes, daycare, maternity leave, etc. During the last year in Toronto, STAC-WAC worked toward setting up a Women's Solidarity Day at the Irwin Toy picket line. Irwin Toy employees, primarily women and grossly underpaid, were out for five months in a long bitter struggle to obtain a first contract. On the Solidarity Day, hundreds of women joined their ranks. The media picked up on it and from



Women's Solidarity picket for the workers on strike at Irwin Toy last fall.

then on Irwin was news.

A boycott went into effect on Irwin Toys and women, as mothers and primary purchasers of toys, respected the boycott in large numbers. The Irwin strike is now settled. The first contract leaves much to be desired in monetary terms but the contract language provides much hope for Irwin employees in the future. STAC-WAC are currently working to arrange a similar Solidarity Day for the workers at Auto-Quip Hardware.

We have also worked on sending a large contingent of trade union women to the Interna-

tional Women's Day march and fair in Toronto on March 6th. As more and more trade unionists come out to these events, they carry on to become more active in their own locals. It would seem that the best education lies in the practice not in the theory. STAC-WAC began with 4 women and has grown to 16 in a relatively short time.

Recently, at the National Steelworkers Policy Conference, an excellent women's policy paper was passed. The first Steelworker National women's Conference will be held in Toronto in June of this year.

I believe that the future of trade union women and the trade union movement as a whole, lies in decentralization of power. Changes must occur in the structure of the unions to permit the voices of the small locals to be heard. Election of more women to executive positions will help to effect this change. With groups of committed women such as STAC-WAC, working together, the future looks good for WOMEN OF STEEL.

Bev Brown, at 34, has been an active trade unionist for seventeen years and is currently with the United Steelworkers where she is a steward of local 2900.

Action Daycare

19 Carr St., Toronto M5T 2V7
362-1033

Political action group working towards quality, universal, free daycare.

Birth Control and V.D. Information Centre

2828 Bathurst St., Ste 501, Toronto M6B 3A7 789-4541

Pregnancy testing, VD testing, abortion referral. Will give names of doctors. Speaking engagements for schools, women's groups, etc. on birth control, abortion, VD. Free and confidential. Phone for appointment.

Canadian Abortion Rights Action League (CARAL)

P.O. Box 935, Stn. Q, Toronto M4T 2P1
961-1507 Diane Nannarone (Toronto chapter)

Working for freedom of choice on abortion. Lobbying for repeal of abortion law. Education on sexuality and birth control.

Canadian Negro Women's Association

c/o Verda Cook, 25 Cougar Ct., Apt. 1404, Scarborough N1J 3E5
267-8433

Community work among black women. Educational and vocational assistance.

Centre for Spanish Speaking Women

582A College St., Toronto M6C 1B3

533-8545 Monica Rjutout

Counselling in employment, UIC, Workmen's Comp., housing. Legal clinic, English classes, pre-natal classes, translation. Support group for battered women.

Citizens' Independent Review of Police Activities (CIRPA)

c/o Ald. David White, City Hall, Toronto

Hqline: 960-6318, 24 hours

Information: 367-7903, Brynne Teall

Assists people who are alleging abuse on the part of the police, including lesbians and women who allege police harassment while reporting sexual assault. Supported by the Rape Crisis Centre.

Congress of Canadian Women

Box 188, Stn. E, Toronto

767-7330

Since 1950, struggling for equality, women's rights, international solidarity and peace.

Constance Hamilton Co-op

c/o 523 Melita Cres., Toronto M6G 3X9
532-8860, Lyn Adamson (Mon. - Fri. 9-12),
535-2451 (evenings)

Housing co-operative in planning stages for sole-support women, with or without dependents. There will also be a communal house for women just leaving emergency hostels and who are in need of some support.

Creating Together Parkdale

1624 Queen St. W. West (rear)

537-1004, Maralyn or Linda

Drop-in centre for parents and pre-school children. Activities include yoga, dance, health, alternative nutrition. Newsletter. Clothing exchange. Coffee and children's snacks.

East York Women's Centre

870 Pape Ave., Toronto

461-1713

Drop-in Monday-Friday 9:30-4:30. General counselling, information and referrals. Free legal clinic every second Monday from 7-9 pm.

Elizabeth Fry Society

215 Wellesley St. East

924-3708

Counselling and information for women who are or have been in conflict with the law.

Family Benefits Work Group

960-0258

Coalition of sole-support mothers and other women activists working to increase recipient benefits and organizing for social change. Day-care provided for all activities and meetings.

Hostel: Anduhyaun House

920-1492

Native Canadian women's residence offering short-term services for women and children. Staffed by native women. Counselling, cultural support, recreation, life skills program. Open 24 hours.

Hostel: Interval House

924-1491

Free, temporary housing and physical protection for sole support mothers and their children. Priority given to battered women. Counselling and referral around marital violence, parenting, advocacy.

Hostel: Nellie's

461-1084

Temporary hostel for women 16 and over. Maximum stay of 2 weeks. Temporary accommodation for mothers with children (males up to 12 years, females any age).

Hostel: Women's Habitat

252-5829

Emergency shelter for women with children in crisis. Support, counselling, information and referral services. House run on co-operative basis. Maximum stay six weeks.

Hostel: Women in Transition

967-5227

Free, emergency shelter for women and children who are living in violent marital situations. Co-operative day care, counselling, and referrals.

Immigrant Women's Centre

348 College St.

924-7161

Centre for Chinese, Italian, West Indian, Spanish, Portuguese, Vietnamese and Laotian immigrants. Free and confidential services. No OHIP required. Family counselling and referral. Birth control and sexuality counselling. Weekly medical clinic. Presentation of birth control programs to community groups and agencies.

Immigrant Women's Job Placement Centre

720 Spadina Ave., Suite 105

922-8017

Job search and placement preparation for interviews. Information about labour laws and job benefits. Translation of materials related to the above. Italian, Chinese, Vietnamese, Spanish and West Indian workers on staff.

INTERCEDE (International Coalition to End Domestic Exploitation)

363-5238 (days), 537-3037 (evenings)

Coalition of community organizations pressuring the provincial and federal governments for improvements in conditions for domestic workers. Monthly public meetings for domestic workers on work permits. Help available for labour problems and immigration status.

International Women's Day Committee

P.O. Box 70, Stn. F, Toronto M4Y 2L4

979-2319, Nancy Adamson

The International Women's Day Committee is a socialist-feminist organization. It plays a major role in organizing the annual celebration of International Women's Day in Toronto. Over the past three years the committee has become more and more involved in the struggles of working class women for the right to organize and strike, equal pay, abortion on demand, decent social assistance payments, free universal daycare, lesbian rights, and to end all forms of sexual abuse and harassment. IWDC also supports other progressive movements such as the anti-racist, anti-Klan movement.

Jessie's

154 Bathurst St.

365-1888

Assistance to women aged 18 years or younger. Drop-in with nursery Monday - Friday 9:30 - 4:30. Counselling, pre- and post-natal classes. Clothing and furniture exchange.

Labour Rights for Domestic Workers

c/o Mirjiana Vukman-Tenebaum, 82 Warren Rd., No. 704, Toronto

961-0386

Largely responsible for getting the domestic workers covered under the Employment Standards Act, Human Rights, and Workmen's Compensation.

women's directory

Latin American Work Group (LAWG)

P.O. Box 2207, Stn. P, Toronto M5S 2J2
533-4221

Independent research and education organization founded in 1966 to study many aspects of Canada's relationship to Latin America. Activities include: corporate research, newsletters, and many educational and solidarity events. Extensive library of Latin American, Caribbean and Canadian materials and also operates a mail-order bookstore, including material on women's issues.

Lesbians Against the Right (LAR)

P.O. Box 6597, Stn. A, Toronto M5W 1X4

Natalie LaRoche 463-4322

or Gay Bell 466-3801

Feminist organization dedicated to fighting the right from a lesbian-feminist perspective. Meets every second Tuesday at Metropolitan Community Church, 736 Bathurst St.

Lesbian Mothers' Defense Fund

P.O. Box 38, Stn. E, Toronto M6H 4E1

465-6822, Francie Wyland

Counselling, information, referrals and support for lesbian mothers fighting for custody. Monthly meetings for mothers. Quarterly newsletter, "Grapevine", subscription \$3 per year. Distribution of information to mental health profession and lawyers.

Lesbian Phone Line

960-3249 (Tuesdays 7:30 - 10:30 pm; taped message other times)

Counselling and information. Weekly drop-in; phone for day, time and location.

Mothers Against Discrimination (MAD)

c/o Neighbourhood Legal Services, 238 Carlton St., Toronto

961-2625, Lillian Allen

Women in Ontario Housing fighting for issues such as rights of mothers whose children have grown up to remain in their units and landed immigrant women having the right to adequate housing for all their children (including those brought over later on).

OISE Women's Resource Centre

252 Bloor St. West, Toronto M5S 1V6

923-6641, ext. 244, Frieda Forman

Multi-media materials for women's studies. French and English. Circulating library.

Ontario Native Women's Association

Toronto Local Two

920-1492, Roberta Keesick

Native and non-native women supporting native women's issues.

Organized Working Women

15 Gervais Dr., Ste. 301, Don Mills M3C 1Y8

447-7462

Open to all unionized women. Campaigns for equal pay for work of equal value, employment rights and daycare. Strike support. Educational force in labour movement. Resource for union women. Publishes newspaper, "Union Woman".

Rape Crisis Centre

P.O. Box 6597, Stn. A, Toronto M5W 1X4

Crisis Line: 964-8080, 24 hours

Business Line: 964-7477

Counselling, information and support for sexual assault victims through medical and legal procedures if desired. Offers six-week self-defense course. Advocacy group on all women's issues, especially on violence against women. Public education on violence against women.

Sole Support Mothers' Group

65 Belshaw Pl. (outside door next to lobby)

368-2348 or 863-1768, Martha Gandier

Regent Park and area sole support mothers' group opposed to proposed changes in legislation that would further oppress mothers on Family Benefits or Welfare. Meetings offer sole support mothers an opportunity to meet each other and to work together. Every Tuesday 1:15 - 3:15 pm. Daycare provided.

Sole-Support Parents' Coalition

c/o Gail Davis, 100 Bain Ave., 25 the Oaks, Toronto M4K 1E8

465-3376

Opposed to transfer of sole-support parents from Family Benefits to Welfare. Monthly meetings.

Support Services for Assaulted Women

427 Bloor St. W., Toronto M5S 1X7

968-3422, Leslie

Consulting agency working in the area of assaulted women. Education workshops and referrals to support groups.

Times Change Women's Employment Centre

932 Bathurst St., Toronto M5R 3G5

534-1161

Employment counselling and career planning workshops. Help in preparing resumes. Referrals to training programs.

Women Against Violence Against Women (WAVAW)

P.O. Box 174, Stn. D, Toronto M6P 3J8

923-1754, Elizabeth Raymer or

960-1213, Melanie Randall

Committed to action from a feminist perspective against violence against women.

Women's Committee of TCLSAC (Toronto Committee for Liberation of Southern Africa)

427 Bloor St. West, Toronto M5S 1X7

536-3781, Eden Anderson

Resource centre on women in liberation struggles of Third World countries; stresses Southern Africa. Pamphlets in progress: domestic workers in Canada and Southern Africa, Women in Namibia. Holds public forums on women in Southern Africa.

Women's Counselling, Referral and Education Centre

348 College St., Toronto M5T 1S4

924-0766 (between 1 - 4 pm Mon. - Fri.; taped message other times)

Therapy, counselling and self-help group. Referrals for women seeking non-sexist assistance.

Women for Survival

c/o Trinity United Church, 427 Bloor St. W.

534-2714, Margaret Hancock

Feminist anti-nuclear group with focus on educating women on the hazards of nuclear power and weapons.

Women in Trades

932 Bathurst St.

537-6498 (evenings),

Gloria Geller or Jenny Stimac

Group for women presently involved in or interested in non-traditional jobs in industry and technology.

Working Women's Community Centre

1072A Bloor St. W., Toronto M6H 1M6

532-2824

Serving Portuguese and Spanish speaking women. Supportive counselling, general information regarding health, UIC, and Family Benefits. Provides orientation with regards to employment and housing. Translation and interpretation. Referrals and escorts. Advocacy. Workshops and group discussions on issues affecting women.

YWCA's Women's Development Centre

Focus on Change

961-8100

Program for sole support mothers receiving social assistance. Helping women achieve personal and economic independence through life skills and academic upgrading.

Women's Legal Clinic

15 Birch Ave., Toronto M4V 1E1

925-1154

Staffed by women law students. Appointments usually within a day or two. Free advice.

Women's Resource Centre

15 Birch Ave.

925-3137

Lending library with extensive collection of materials on all women's issues

Women's Information and Referral Service

925-1154

An on-going opportunity for women to share aspects of their lives for mutual support and personal growth in a shared-leadership setting.

One year later hospital workers still frustrated

by John Pitt

Last year's six day, illegal hospital workers strike brought on a flurry of firings and suspensions. As arbitration decisions continue to be handed down on these reprisals, hospital workers say their frustrations with cutbacks in patient care and increased work loads — the frustrations that brought them out on strike in the first place — only grow worse.

Reprisals by hospitals and the Ontario Hospital Association included the firing of 35 hospital workers who were local executives of the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE). Three thousand five hundred hospital workers were suspended and 5,600 received disciplinary letters.

None of the firings have, so far, been upheld by arbitration. However, CUPE national president Grace Hartman spent 45 days in jail, while Ontario CUPE president Lucie Nicholson and national representative Ray Arseneault spent 15 days each in jail for contempt of court and failure to obey a Supreme Court injunction to restrain striking union members.

The thousands of dollars being spent on these arbitration cases, as one fired hospital worker noted, could have been put to better use, given the massive cutbacks in health care that brought on the strike.

The majority of Ontario's 36,000 health care workers are women. In spite of the massive campaigns by the unions that represent them, the cutbacks are continuing. They say the crucial issue of patient care was lost in all the media hype about the illegality of the strike.

Paul Middleton, a service representative of Local 220 London and District Service Employees Union says "Patient care is the main issue of every union meeting. It is the most frustrating issue for me personally."

"We were called into Victoria Hospital in London to discuss solutions to the \$17.25 million deficit. Of course the

hospital is planning layoffs.

"The nature of the health care field is people serving people. Eighty to 90 per cent of the budget is for personnel," Middleton said.

Health care workers are frustrated because their unions have no say in work loads or patient care. This falls under 'management rights' in their contracts and management is not prepared to share these decisions with health care workers.

CUPE estimates that 2,520 jobs in hospitals organized by CUPE have been eliminated since 1975 when the Conservative government began its cutbacks. The work loads of CUPE hospital workers have increased by 14 per cent.

According to Middleton, "Workers in Ontario hospitals and nursing homes are victims of the 'Florence Nightingale Syndrome', which means everyone is expected to give a little more."

"Now, that 'little more' has become the norm. The minimum standard for nursing care in Ontario is one-and-a-half hours per day (for each patient). Most Ontario nursing homes operate at that standard or just above it."

"A minimum standard is just that. It is not supposed to be the norm. Imagine if everyone in Ontario was paid the minimum wage."

A registered nursing assistant (RNA) at Toronto's St. Joseph's Hospital told the *Clarion*: "Hospital workers are forced to take short-cuts in caring for patients because of increased work loads — everyone knows about it."

At St. Joseph's, she said, there is only one sink for every three rooms. Nurses and assistants are required to wash their hands after caring for each patient to avoid spreading disease, but she says there is no time to run back and forth between rooms to wash. "Imagine that," she said, "They don't even have a sink in every room!"

Frustration over patient care and work load were a major cause of the 6 day work stoppage last year. But even though the hospitals refused to bargain over a union-proposed joint worker-management work load committee, arbitrator Paul Weiler did not address the question.

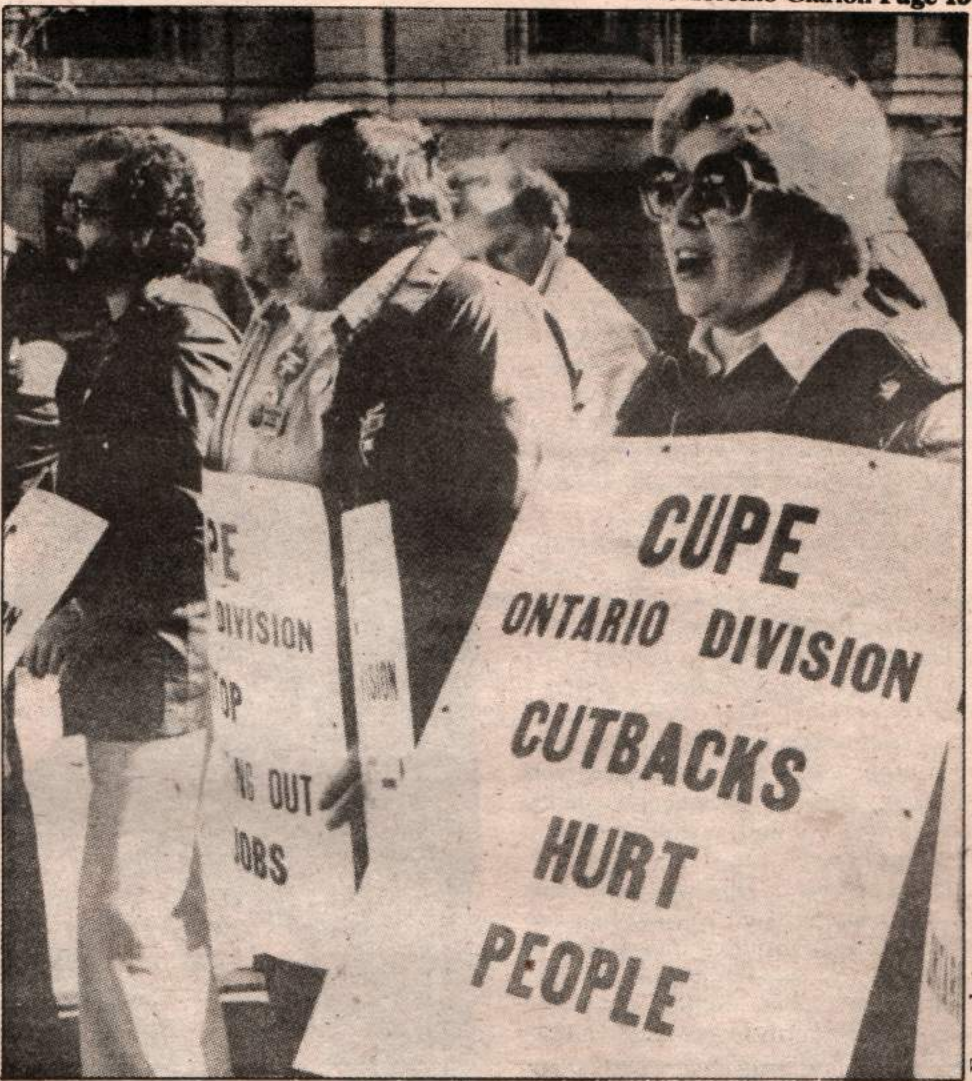
Prior to the strike, workers at various hospitals had tried other methods of bringing attention to the problem.

At the Oshawa-Peterborough Hospital, workers staged a work-to-rule campaign in December and in January, prior to the strike. "The workers decided to do all jobs completely, not cutting any corners, just to show the effects of the government cutbacks," said Paul Barry, a member of the CUPE central bargaining committee at that time.

Workers at the Ajax-Pickering General Hospital had tried a similar tactic in 1978. They wanted to demonstrate to the patients the kind of care they could have, said Barry.

"We asked all off-duty staff to come in and those on duty were asked to work double shifts. We increased the normal staff by about one third for that day. No workers were left standing around; there was lots for everyone to do."

"You never see stories in the media about these issues," said an RNA who had participated in a 'positive job action' at Toronto's Queen Elizabeth Hospital.



January, 1981: CUPE workers try desperately to inform the public of the real reasons for their illegal strike.

But these positive actions failed to get the message through to the Ajax hospital. They hired the U.S. efficiency experts Naus-Newlyn Company. The consultants' fee was the amount of money saved by the hospital in the first year of the study — money that could have been used to improve patient care.

"The result was that part-time workers replaced full-time workers to give the hospital 'more flexibility,'" says Barry. (Hospitals are turning to part-time workers because they do not receive the same pay and benefits as full-time workers.)

Middleton says that in Local 220, half of their 6,000 health care members are now part-timers. The union is concerned that part-time workers just can't develop the same relationships with

patients and residents that is central to patient care.

Local 220's strategy has been to try to make contracts for part-time workers equitable with those of full-time workers.

Barry believes that negotiating a right to grieve based on a work load clause in a union contract may be the solution to hospital workers' frustrations.

But the education of hospital workers to fight government cutbacks based on their own work experiences is crucial, he says.

"When you go to a union meeting at a unit chairperson's house, and he has a Progressive Conservative election sign on his lawn, you know we have a lot of work to do."

Union re-groups for next fight

In an effort to prevent a reoccurrence of workers' frustrated demands and management's reprisals that followed last year's hospital strike, the Canadian Union of Public Employees (CUPE) is re-vamping its bargaining structure for hospital workers.

CUPE officials say the Ontario Council of Hospital Unions now being set up will promote stronger, more centralized bargaining.

"This is a CUPE reform," said Paul Barry, chairperson of the committee which recommended the new council. "Grace Hartman and the research staff are behind it 100 per cent."

Barry believes centralized bargaining is crucial in dealing with sophisticated employers such as Ontario hospital management. "In 1974, Toronto hospital unions bargained as one union. We were very militant. We won," he said.

"It looked like co-ordinated bargaining was the way of the future, but it didn't pan out. There was group bargaining in 1976 but it was done by region in a loosely-knit fashion ... This new central bargaining structure is very hopeful."

Ironically, the Hospital Employees Union (HEU) in British Columbia broke away from CUPE in 1970 because CUPE wanted to dismantle the B.C. union's centralized structure. Instead of specializing in health care bargaining, CUPE ordered union representatives to

service school boards and municipal workers as well as hospital locals. HEU saw this as an order to self-destruct, and broke away from CUPE.

A source at HEU attributes the union's successes there to better labour legislation in B.C., a more militant labour climate, and the bargaining structure they have maintained. Health care workers there have the right to 'controlled strikes', the right to unilaterally opt for arbitration and are able to picket suppliers of the employer to force a faster settlement.

These advantages show up in the superior pay and benefits B.C. hospital workers have won. Unskilled hospital workers there earn \$8.13 per hour compared to \$6.40 in Ontario. Sick leave benefits are substantially better than in Ontario, and B.C. hospital workers are eligible for paid leave to care for a sick child. There is no such benefit in Ontario.

"All the rights we in B.C. have are those we fought for and won," an HEU member told the *Clarion*. "To some extent the Ontario labour movement is the architect of its own misfortune: no fight, no win."

However, the Ontario hospital workers held out for six long days in January 1981 against impossible odds. This shows there is strength, determination and hope for the future of Ontario's hospital unions.



Feminism and the environment

Women plug in at Hydro

by Kris Klaasen

Last March, 15 women staged a one-day sit-in at Ontario Hydro's Toronto headquarters. The group, Women for Survival, demanded the utility phase out its plans for nuclear power and install pollution control devices on Hydro's coal-fired generating plants.

The women distributed leaflets and sang songs until the building closed, when they were charged with trespassing and removed by police.

The next month, in Bonn, West Germany, 250 women blocked a defence ministry entrance where NATO ministers were holding talks on nuclear arms for Europe. The women banged pots and pans, shouted slogans and carried signs saying "No to Genocide" and Stop the Arms Race."

These actions on different continents are far from isolated events. Nor are they the only examples — or styles — of organizing by women in the environmental movement. Rather, they are among the more recent and visible proofs that feminism and environmentalism are inextricably bound.

Organizations formed and led by women to work on issues such as peace and disarmament have a long history. In 1915, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) grew out of the suffragette movement and continues today, with branches in 20 countries. The Voice of Women, another peace group, established in 1960, is still active on a wide range of social issues.

Environmentally focussed women's organizations in Europe, Japan, the U.S. and Canada believe environmental rape and nuclear proliferation are inherent in a patriarchal society, that women need to make their own decisions, and they want to get away from the sexism they encounter in male-dominated groups.

Their formation reflects the political maturity of the women's movement, as well as greater awareness of environmental issues in society at large.

"Look at the increased threat we are facing," says Charlotte McEwen of Ottawa's WILPF branch. McEwen is a 20-year veteran of the Voice of Women and more recently became involved with WILPF. Identified as a "pacifist organization," WILPF's Ottawa branch is undergoing a revival. It currently numbers 30 to 40 women including one campus group.

"It's very encouraging ... what we're working on in WILPF is a whole new generation," says McEwen, noting that most of the members are women in their 20s.

Unlike WILPF, which does count some men among its ranks, Toronto's Women for Survival is exclusive to women. "It's not something against individual men or any sense that we want to see the world separated," says member Margaret Hancock, "but you get to a point where you're tired of validating men for trying to be non-sexist."

"You put a lot of energy into helping men feel good about themselves when what you really want to be doing is confronting and working on the issues."

Also, the group's structure has made it



possible for women to develop skills in areas like policy-making, publicity and media liaison.

Women for Survival was sparked by women who had been involved in mixed groups. "They were getting tired of doing the cruddy jobs and not getting adequate recognition," says Hancock. They chose to work on anti-nuclear issues "because if we don't get these things stopped we're not going to be around to work on anything else."

Also, there is "the element of the health effects of radiation...I think that does hit women particularly hard."

The group's style of operating blends personal preferences for collective structures, consensus decision-making and job-sharing with politics.

Hancock explains: "I see the world threatened now with annihilation because of the values of patriarchal society which are that you dominate and exploit. So I don't think it's as much a matter of dismantling the bombs and shutting down the nuclear power plants as it is challenging the values and the power structures that give rise to those things in the first place."

Her comments are echoed by Montreal's Dorothy Rosenberg whose involvement in the peace and environmentalist movements stretch back 15 years.

"We're not interested in sharing the big cancerous pie," Rosenberg says. "We want a good pie we can all bake together."

Her activism was spawned in the anti-war movement and she has developed what she calls "an eco-feminist perspective." This involves "rejecting the patriarchal aspects of war and looking in a more nurturing, humanistic way."

During the Viet Nam War she was a

volunteer with the U.S. Voice of Women's campaign to knit wool clothing for Vietnamese children. The clothing could not contain synthetic fibres because they aggravated the effects of napalm on the children's skin.

Her abhorrence of war sprang from the contrast between that bizarre exercise and the "tremendous feeling that comes with nurturing a baby ... this intense feeling of parenting which can probably be felt by men too but is not, unfortunately, felt by most of them."

Through the Canadian Coalition for Nuclear Responsibility (CCNR), a coalition of 200 non-nuclear and safe energy groups of which she is a founding member, Rosenberg has developed a reputation as a relentless advocate of women's concerns within the environmental movement.

"Women have been at the backbone of the environmental movement in this country," she says. "We have some very good women who have spoken out and who are leaders but they are few and far between. I can't speak for the whole environmental movement, but I would say that if you look at the leadership roles in most of the organizations, that that they are males ... if you look at the workers and organizers — they are women. Usually the spokespeople are the men."

While most of the groups Rosenberg is involved with include both men and women, she solidly supports those efforts organized by women only.

"There are enough women around who have been burned by sexist experiences that have chosen to work with women," she says, "and if that's their choice we have to respect them for it ... people have to work in the milieu they

find themselves most productive in."

Rosenberg thinks Canada is a little behind the U.S. when it comes to a feminist focus on the environment.

A project designed to make it happen more quickly in Canada is called Women Shaping a Conserver Society (WCSC). Sponsored by Toronto's National Survival Institute, the effort is in the planning and development stage, according to its manager Linda Ryan-Nye.

The idea is to increase women's involvement and encourage them to take leadership roles in the organization and

"I don't think it's as much a matter of dismantling the bombs as challenging the power structures that gave rise to them."

areas shaping the environment.

Those institutions include private industry, government, labour and non-governmental groups. The areas range from urban planning to the dumping of toxic waste.

"There is a need for us to find a strong voice," says Ryan-Nye, "because we aren't on the inside in any quantity and certainly not at a decision making level."

She says the "frustration for women, when they see decisions being made that they don't like, is to know that, not only are they being made by government and industry — which anyone can be frustrated with — but that they are made by men."

"What you have is a lot of very good people — in this case men in environmental organizations — planning a wonderful future that doesn't have all the environmental problems we're suffering from but doesn't necessarily do away with the disadvantages for women and, in many cases, just continues to perpetuate them."

At this stage, the WCSC project calls for the formation of a Women's Action Central — a small office that will act as a nerve centre linking women and their groups across the country. It will provide information on women's group activities or point women to sources of information and contacts.

Women organizing around environmental concerns will face the same problems women have encountered in their continuing struggles for equal pay or maternity leave. In those areas the lines are clearly drawn. The notion that women should be involved in environmental planning side-by-side with men will likely meet subtler resistance.

As Ryan-Nye notes, "not all the decisions would look totally different — nobody can judge what it would mean."

Here's how to contact the groups and women mentioned in this article:

Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, 2969 Richmond Rd., Unit C, Ottawa. (613) 236-2976.

Women for Survival, 427 Bloor St. W., Toronto.

Dorothy Rosenberg, c/o Canadian Coalition for Nuclear Responsibility, 2010 McKay St., Montreal. (514) 744-4832.

Women Shaping a Conserver Society, c/o National Survival Institute, 229 College St., Toronto M5T 1R4. (416) 593-1299.

This article originally appeared in Citizen's Bulletin, a periodical for environmentalists.



'Saga of Wet Hens' impact suffers under playwright's faulty lens

The Saga of Wet Hens
by Jovette Marchessault
Translated by Linda Gaboriau
Directed by Michelle Rossignol
Tarragon Theatre until 20 March
Reviewed by John Morrissey

The Saga of Wet Hens is an imaginary conference of four French-speaking women writers from different eras — Germaine Guevremont, Laure Canon, Anne Hebert and Gabrielle Roy. The four meet to compare memories, share their art and discuss the status of women in Quebec and the world. Their aim is to collaborate on the definitive story of women's struggles under male oppression.

The play's aim is to put women in touch with their own suppressed history and encourage them to unite and take back the heritage of which they've been dispossessed. The "taking back" of one's history, and therefore one's identity and power, is an essential part of the process of liberation. There are moments in *The Saga of Wet Hens* that accomplish this repossession with genuine feeling and power.

Unfortunately, those moments are almost lost in Jovette Marchessault's lengthy and over-wrought script. At an hour and forty minutes, the Saga is too long. And the tone of the play seldom varies from a self-conscious hyperbole



theatre

that rings increasingly false as the meeting thumps along. Moments of true poetry are always deflated by clunkers like: "My saliva copulates with life!" It's as if the play were assembled from a great deal of throw-away material, none of which the author could bear to throw away.

The play works best when the writers' own words are applied to particular issues such as the abuses of women by the male hierarchies of religion, medicine and academia. The play would be much better if it concentrated more on the four writers' own words and less on Marchessault's filler.

Her treatment of the quartet as characters is most distressing. Couples and



Jennifer Phipps as Germaine Guevremont and Chapelle Jaffe as Anne Hebert.

creative individuals are reduced to types and burdened with silly nicknames. Putting your own words in historic authors' mouths is a dangerous game. Marchessault's symbolic representations of Anne Hebert (punker) and Gabrielle Roy (airy-faery) are travesties. Germaine Guevremont and Laure Canon fare a bit better, probably because Marchessault felt less need to "modernize" them.

Diane D'Aquile struts and shouts as Gabrielle and Chapelle Jaffe as Anne tries to maintain some dignity while materializing in the bookcase like Tinkerbell. Jennifer Phipps is very strong as

Germaine, but it's Monique Mercure's Laure who really captivates. She is the one who naturally commands attention, and it's her spontaneity that holds the evening together. But she shouldn't have to carry the play. It's ironic that a work celebrating women's solidarity should be memorable for individual virtuosity rather than ensemble playing.

There is much talk of unity and creativity, but mostly it remains talk. *The Saga of the Wet Hens* does not serve the cause of liberation as well as it might because the writing is so diffuse and the characters so abstract.

Soup kitchens, acid rain and unions underground

Womynly Way Productions presents *Reaching Out On the Environment*, a series of cultural events designed to raise public awareness of environmental issues. The events, which are educational as well as entertaining, will focus on such issues as acid rain, alternative energy, endangered species, nuclear disarmament, air and water pollution. Next in the series — rhythm and blues singer/songwriter Teresa Trull. Check the *Clarion* calendar for more details.

Changing places Theatre presents *In Pyjamas From Tahiti*, a play by Debora Bojman. This fun, imaginative, and though-provoking play is about a young girl who learns about negotiation and group decision-making through an encounter with union subway workers and applies her new knowledge to a problem at school. Recommended for children 8 years old and up. March 20, 27 at 3:30 p.m.; March 22-26 at 2:00 p.m., St. Barnabas Church, 175 Hampton Ave. For more info-call Deb Bojman at 222-5569.



David Switzer and Theresa Sears.

culture notes

by Chris Hallgren

The Soup Kitchen Cabaret series, created and performed by David Switzer and Teresa Sears, toured Southern Ontario during the month during the month order to raise to a higher level both the profiles and the funds of non-partisan political groups.

The show borrows on the kind of energy, wit and professionalism common to European cabaret, rather than the dinner/music syndrome of Toronto. Some exceptions have existed, notably Pears Cabaret under the direction of Jim Burt, but most cabaret around T.O. is based more on sexual innuendo than political insight.

Basically, Sears and Switzer used some of their repertoire of cabaret material to put together a package with which political groups could offer political people a good time and some soup for their money. After the show, the soup was served up to give the sponsoring group the opportunity to talk with the audience and distribute their literature.

The response was tremendous. They have raised thousands of dollars for groups ranging from Nellies, to Stop 103, to the Steelworkers' Strike Fund. It was a very witty and professional show as well. The skits ranged from kids' rights to a send-up of punk rock "fascism". The Canada Council Explorations grant that helped fund the development of the show was, according to the council, the only one to a politically motivated art project. Let's hope Sears and Switzer have started a trend.

Loving Women hiding nothing

By Lorraine Robertson

Loving Women is a frank and honest statement about women's rights as they should be in this society. How refreshing to see through other women's eyes works by such writers as Marge Piercy, Holly Near, Margaret Atwood and Alice Munro.

'The Legend of Knockmany' which was part of the first act brought to mind how women have had to always use our brains in situations instead of the myth in the old wives' tales of using our bodies.

Holly Near's 'Fight Back' strongly suggests that we of the female gender are doing just that. We are taking a stand. And indeed the entire production is powerfully influenced by the issues that play an important part of every woman's life. *Loving Women* also stresses the bleakness of loneliness, alienation and degradation of lesbian women in this city, as read from the works of Jane Rule in 'Killer Dyke' and 'The Lady'.

Through the readings I came in contact with almost every honest emotion that could be felt. 'How I Met My Husband' was a charming, comical, old fashioned bit of nostalgia for me. On the other hand, 'The Infanticide of Marie Ferrar' (a sad lament), 'Rehabilitation' (jailed women) and 'Grandmother's Song' (plight of older women) brought me sorrow as well as a broader outlook of compassion for other women in sad and distressing situations.

Randi Helmes, Barb Jones and Helen Porter from the Women's Drama Collective performed these songs, stories and poems with an overflowing of warmth and clear expression.

I'm sure the audience fully understood and appreciated every verbal expression to its fullest. I know I did! The audience's response was very favourable and there were no sublime or hidden messages to be translated.

I suggest if you ever get the chance to see *Loving Women* to do so and you will not be disappointed.

Loving Women will be playing at the Palmerston Library Theatre until March 14th. Show starts at 8 p.m. Tickets are \$6. and \$4.50 for students and seniors.



Helen Porter and Barb Jones in *Loving Women*.

Successful revolution in Nicaragua due to women Overcoming Somoza and sexism

In July 1979, the Sandinist National Liberation Front — named in memory of the Nicaraguan guerrilla leader Cesar Auguste Sandino — led the revolutionary forces to victory in Nicaragua. Sandino's Daughters is the remarkable story of the women who fought in and won the revolution.

Sandino's Daughters
Testimonies of Nicaraguan
Women in Struggle
By Margaret Randall
Edited by Linda Yanz, photo-
graphs by Margaret Randall
New Star Books 1981 \$7.95

Reviewed by M.A. Morrison

In *Sandino's Daughters*, Daisy Zamora, now vice-minister of culture in Nicaragua, is describing her transition from middle-class woman to Marxist revolutionary: "I remember confiding how hard it was for me to get over the inferiority I felt about my class background. I was clear about the role the petit bourgeoisie was called upon to play in the development of the revolutionary struggle. But I knew that that role didn't satisfy me. I wanted to be more involved, and on a different level I got over my insecurities by going to fight" She goes on to describe her active participation as a commander in the attack on the National Palace in Managua in 1978.

Daisy, Dora Maria, Nora Astorga and the other women speaking in Margaret Randall's recent book are only a fraction of the women who fought in and helped win the war against Nicaragua's military junta in 1979.

Randall interviewed several women in preparation for *Sandino's Daughters* and has assembled two dozen or so of these to produce a collection of stories, descriptions, 'testimonies' of the Nicaraguan revolution — about the fighting, decision-making, organizing and politicization of the women. The result is a look at the hearts, minds and strengths of these women who are Sandi-



Women in Leon making "gofio", the traditional December sweet.

no's daughters.

Those profiled range in class background from peasants to the upper middle class. Daughters and mothers, nuns, teenage girls and grandmothers have all undergone a level of politicization that is foreign to many women around the world.

Fighting Somoza's regime and a deeply imbedded sexism, they overcame obstacles and created secure places for themselves in the revolution. The success of the revolution was largely due to the advanced level of organization and widespread participation of the women.

Their involvement included organizing the peasants, becoming part of the army (Women in Olive Green), planning educational and seminars, commanding military operations and hiding both themselves and others from the National Guard.

The period covered is primarily the seventies when the struggle was most intense and effective, though some go back to the

fifties and early sixties in describing their participation and work. Unfortunately descriptions stop around the time of the overthrow of Somoza in July of 1979, so there is little talk of the reconstruction and the obvious difficulty and different kind of work and struggle involved with that. As well, the Miskito Indians and black population are barely represented in these testimonies.

Randall connects the interviews with introductions, giving a short history of each woman and situating them physically in the struggle. The testimonies are happy and victorious in tone — the euphoria that comes after a job well done.

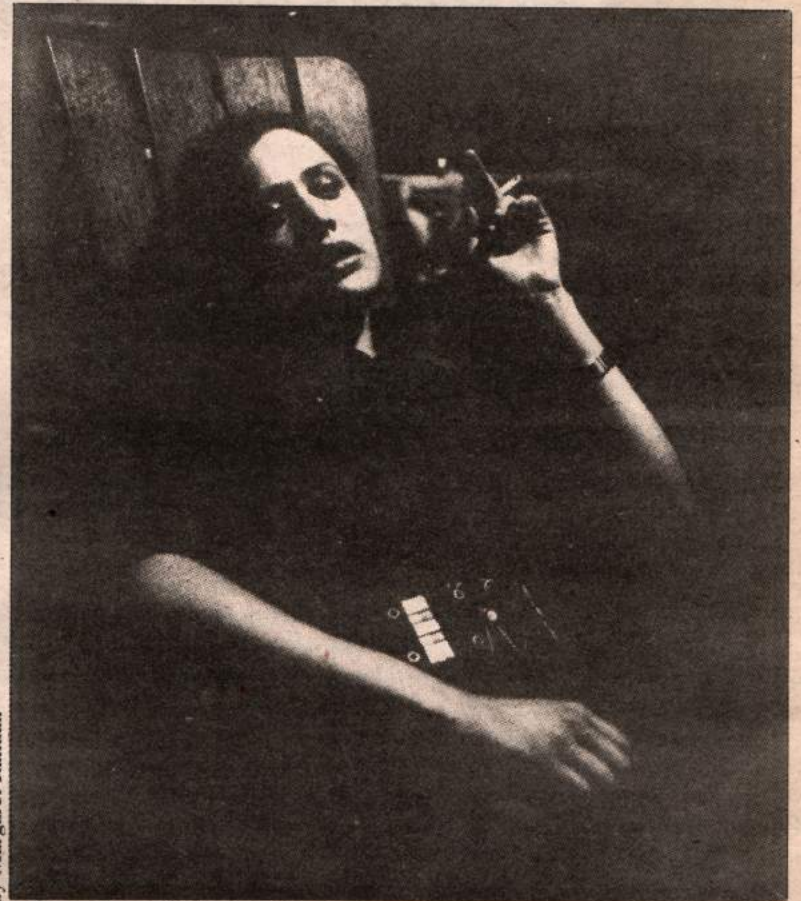
This compilation is an interesting and at times gripping one, valuable to women and men everywhere who are waging similar struggles, even if not so seemingly radical and militant. The self-confidence and authority with which these women speak flows from a very strong image of themselves as complete revolutionaries. They have good reason to be proud of their work. Canadians should take note.

Sandino's Daughters is available at DEC Books and other fine bookstores.

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Dora Maria: "Through the struggle, the people as a whole reclaim the strength and dignity shown by a few. That's what Sandinism is to the Nicaraguan people. It is our history, our heroes and heroines, and our people's struggle and victory."

From page 6
the job done.

When I enrolled in the Hunger Project in 1977, it was clear to me that a much larger group of informed, committed and active participants in the process of change was needed if world hunger were to be ended by the turn of the century.

Today over 2 million people have been counted in their willingness to be responsible for having the end of starvation be an idea whose time has come. Of this total, over 100,000 are enrolled in Canada. There are many avenues for individual participation in having world hunger ended: educating oneself and others, supporting relief and educational agencies active in the field, participation in the political process, communication and information.

Readers with questions about opportunities to participate in the Hunger Project may phone 277-2634.

Brian Hull Chairperson
The Toronto Hunger Project
Committee

Poland

To the Clarion:

I am writing this letter as a Clarion co-op member and as an individual actively involved with the production of the paper. The reason I feel the need to write is letter is

because I was unable to influence the decision on the Poland editorial that ran in our January issue.

Many people assume that an editorial expresses the views of the whole co-op. Well, that one did not reflect mine! In fact I was opposed to the idea of an editorial on Poland. Admittedly I was unable to attend the Wednesday night meetings where it was discussed.

Poland certainly seems to be having its share of problems and the main stream media would like to have us concentrate on them. But why would we do what the media wants when one of our reasons for existence is to help people question the so-called truths that the *Globe/Star/Sun* feed us every day?

And why are we focussing on Poland? El Salvador is much closer to home, we have eyewitnesses to the injustices occurring there, we can prove American involvement in the oppression both financially and militarily. Why would we choose to break our policy of not commenting on international issues and not speak out about El Salvador?

I feel that in this instance the Clarion was more concerned with anti-Soviet witch hunting than with providing an editorial I could be proud of.

Marty Crowder
Toronto

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Author's observations unpretentious Status of women in China

Letters from China
by Maureen Hynes
253 pages \$7.95
Published by
the Women's Press

Reviewed by Cathy Smith

It seems that every journalist, sociologist or would-be political theorist who's been lucky enough to have visited China in the last few years can't wait to publish her/his brilliant insights and be lauded as the latest authority on that country. Maureen Hynes, author of *Letters from China*, makes no such claim and the result is an enjoyable collection of her less than "expert" impressions.

Written to friends, family and associates before a book was thought of, the letters provide a personal glimpse of China and lack the pretensions a more literary approach might have taken.

The author and a fellow teacher at George Brown College, Ian Gertsbain, spent five months in 1980 teaching English at Sichuan University under a cultural exchange program organized by the Canadian External Affairs Department.

From the outset we know Hynes is no authority and won't pretend to be, although she and Gertsbain were dubbed "foreign experts" when they arrived in China. This title they found a bit disconcerting when they thought of the Cultural revolution and how highly educated Chinese "experts" were often given menial jobs as a form of political re-education.

"Whenever we bowed to the pressure to pronounce on fields outside our expertise, Ian and I privately changed our high-sounding title of 'Foreign Expert' to 'Foreign Charlatan!'"

Serious social problems and the joys and struggles of everyday life are conveyed by Hynes with concern, compassion and humour. As Hynes frequently recounts, she and Gertsbain were the constant target of anyone and everyone eager to learn about the west, or just improve their English.

"Once a week or so Ian and I wanted to escape into the city and people would ride up on their bicycles and someone would whip out a grammar book and say can you explain this and this and this."

While most of the book takes the form of letters home, diary entries and chapter introductions were to round out Hynes' account. One disadvantage of the letters format is that everything is seen in passing. Many details seem to be missing. The letters hang together loosely and leave the impression that there must have been much more to tell.

Some interesting topics could have been expanded, such as the equality of Chinese women and how it differs from our conceptions.

When Hynes talked with the *Clarion* recently she elaborated on some of her observations: "We have a conception of the liberation of women here that is very, very personal. We think it's very important to have personal freedom. The Chi-



Chinese adolescents on the city streets: liberated men in China, says Hynes, have the same problems to overcome as men everywhere.

nese have spent a long time educating people that your personal happiness is not as important as whether socialism is succeeding."

While Chinese women have gained many things since the revolution in 1949, such as divorce and marriage laws that favour women, and equal pay legislation, Hynes says they have at least one problem that we share with them.

"There's the double day—women having the double responsibility of keeping the household and working outside the home. Although," she added, "I think the education and propaganda work the party is doing is really taking. I saw a lot of young couples where the husband is really devoted, really did a lot of work."

Liberated men, said Hynes, have the same problems to overcome in China as anywhere in the world. If they help their wives, they're hen-pecked, or as the Chinese say, "soft-eared."

"You could tell there was a social problem around it because people would make fun of those men and say, 'Oh ya, you're really toeing the line.'"

Hynes' students showed a great curiosity about the west, and were aghast at some of the things we consider freedoms. The Chinese divorce laws, for example, make it very difficult to get a divorce and Hynes encountered many women who couldn't believe our system.

"They find our system of divorce inexplicable, that we could get a divorce when only one party wants it, because they see the big danger of divorce as the husband wanting to ditch them and them being left without any resources."

Another factor makes Chinese divorces rare. "You can't just look up an apartment in the want ads and go out and find one that afternoon."

In China, as Hynes explains in her book, *everyone* gets married. How does that fit in with the new image of women? That's one of the contradictions of Chinese life, says Hynes.

"Women don't see their liberation in setting up alternatives to getting married. Ninety per cent of the women don't see this as a freeing kind of thing. Throughout the massive social changes and the changes in the roles of individuals, the Chinese have retained their respect for the family, have retained the importance they attach to family life."

And men and women relate differently to each other, too. "There are very warm, close relationships between men and between women. But that's the way the lines of friendship usually go."

Hynes said she saw little evidence of friendship between men and women. "I don't think they feel it as a lack, but I sort of felt it as one when I saw how close the men were, how close and affectionate and friendly they were with each other. Friendships aren't really as close here a great deal of the time as they are in China."

One topic Hynes never tired of discussing was the Cultural Revolution. Although many things have changed in China since she returned in the fall of 1980, much of what she says remains interesting. Although she did not have direct contact with people outside the university, she did think the resentment the intellectuals felt during and after the Cultural Revolution was quite widespread.

"I can understand perfectly why people would resent those 10 to 12 years of the Cultural Revolution because their lives were really disrupted."

"Also, there was an expectation that everything was intensely political, a constant meeting and struggling and harassing of people to put up posters."

Hynes found that the Cultural Revolution had the effect of isolating the Chinese people from the outside world. As a result, there is a certain naivete about the western world.

"They think, for example, that Ian and I could do anything we wanted, while they as Chinese couldn't. For example, they couldn't come abroad to study. We couldn't explain to them that Ian and I were very, very lucky people in our own society—we'd been to university, not everybody gets to do that, we'd had training as teachers, not everybody gets to do that, we were happy in our jobs, and we had a rare opportunity to go to China."

"Of course, we can go to China if we want but it costs \$4 to \$5 thousand — so we can't go. But, they'd say, you *can* go. But we don't have the money. Oh, you must have the money, you're rich, you're western."

One subject Hynes does not touch upon in her book but did discuss in con-

review

versation was racism. She provided valuable insight into this problem, and how it can be perceived.

"It's a very sensitive area. The Chinese are outraged when you say there's racism in their society, but it's very easy for us to see it and call it that."

"There have been things that the western press has picked up on and gone on at length on, for example, in Peking there are a lot of small African countries that send students. These small, emerging countries send only male students. There have been these notorious incidents where a black guy has been going out with a Chinese woman and the Chinese friends have attacked the black guy."

"One of the results of this is the Chinese ask these countries, 'why don't you send any women?', thereby attacking that whole structure."

"When my students talked about these things they said things that flabbergasted me. They would say black people aren't welcome in China. But they don't see that as racist, because these people come and upset the social order and create problems."

Family Benefits

From page 5

ize other women living on benefits. And more and more women are joining us.

We are fighting for our rights and what better way to do it than to keep on getting more people involved. So many single mothers think they have no skill or education to contribute but that's where they're wrong. They have been conditioned to think this way. I know because I've been there. But mothers too can attend meetings and organize events. We do get involved and we do contribute to the whole movement to change things.

At this annual meeting we've just elected our brand new board which is truly representative of who we are. Throughout the year we will be involved with such issues as more and better day-care for our children, the transfer project, rent controls, proper housing and most importantly better family benefit-wages. Also we want to set up a drop-in centre and expand our clothing exchange.

So if you don't get a chance to meet with us on International Womens Day, why not try to make it next year. Meanwhile give us a call and we'll send you some information or come talk with you. Incidentally, we are really nice caring folks. I've made some great friends through the work group and hope to be around for quite some time.

I hope you get involved. Do something for single parent families—*for yourself*.



Maureen Hynes, author: "Friendships aren't really as close here ... as they are in China."

Strong voices

Going after Marcos

From page 11

broken that monopoly by holding a Filipino National Day which questions what independence we have to celebrate. And we celebrate our contribution to the places we now live, and protest the racism we encounter there.

The main target of our work right now is an extradition treaty which is almost ratified in the U.S. and another which could be negotiated in Canada.

Fely: Extradition treaties are supposed to be instruments to transport criminals to the place where they should meet justice. But this treaty is not innocent. Before it's even signed, Marcos has asked for 40 people from the U.S., none of them criminals, all of them political oppositionists.

You see, there are over 42 crimes being used in the U.S. treaty, including tax evasion. Violating customs laws will be extraditable.

Judith: So they could get anybody.

Fely: Anybody. They will threaten an already intimidated community. If this treaty were already in place in Canada we would have far fewer Filipinos fighting for landed status for domestic workers.

A note to our readers

We are very pleased with the volume of letters we are now receiving from you, but we are having trouble finding space to print them all.

In order that everyone get a chance to have a say, we must ask you to keep the length of your letter down to 250 words maximum.

—the Clarion collective



Marty Crowder



W.M. Pipher

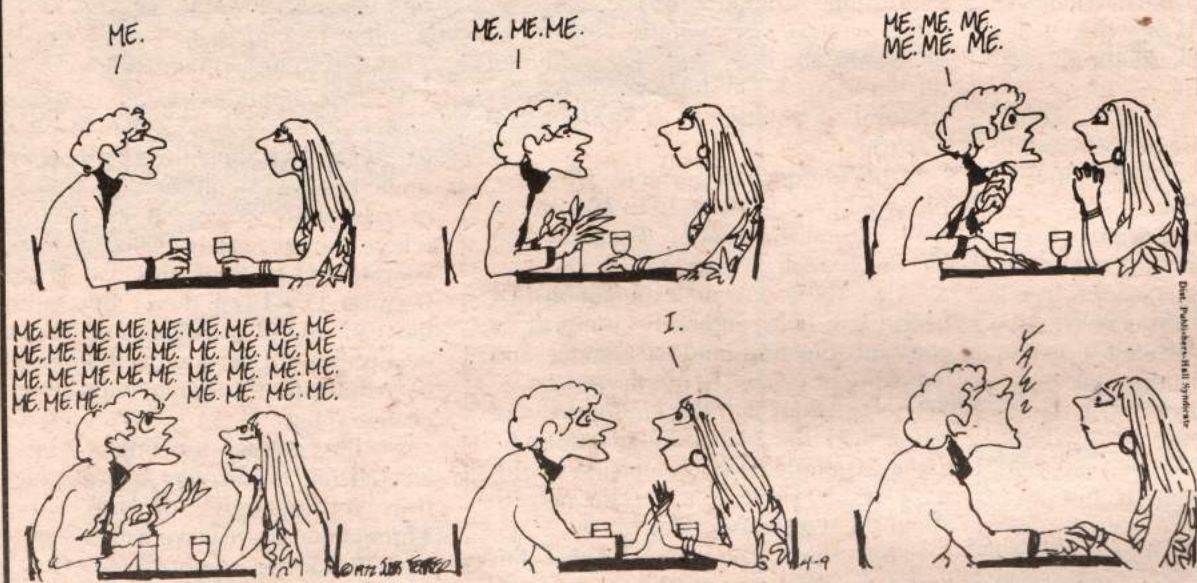


music

Margie Adams (upper left) keyed up the audience with her Toronto debut of animal noises. She was trained as a classical pianist, but judging from the audience participation her lyrics are well known. Another great concert brought here by Womynly Way.

The Red Berets, a socialist-feminist choir, entertained at City Hall on International Women's Day. "We Still Ain't Satisfied" brought rousing cheers as it listed some token victories, but left women yelling for more.

Joan Armatrading was at Massey Hall February 25 and 26 when she thrilled two capacity crowds with a powerful combination of contemporary reggae-rock and terrific vocals



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classifieds

Profile: Information link-up to maximize human resources and creativity groups and individuals.
 Fee: 487-7828.

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March 13, 1981

Second Hand Costumes for a Ghost. A show by Marie Christine Boyer at the Adelaide Court Gallery, 57 Adelaide St. E. for info phone 363-6401. Show ends March 14.

The Grassworks of Labrador. An exhibition of the traditional craft of coiled grassworks from Labrador and Newfoundland. At the Craft Gallery, 346 Dundas St. W. Show ends March 28. Gallery hours Tues. - Sat. 10 am to 5 pm, Sun. 2 - 5 pm.

Doris McCarthy, an exhibition of new canvases and watercolours at the Aggregation Gallery, 83 Front St. E. Gallery hours Tues. - Sat. 11 am to 6 pm. Meet the artist at the opening today from 11 am - 6 pm.

Seduced, a play by Sam Shepard at 8:30 pm at Harbourfront, York Quay Centre. Admission free. Repeat on March 14.

Dance Canada Dance. Montreal choreographer Edouard Lock and dancers perform *Oranges* at 8 pm at Harbourfront York Quay Centre. Adults \$6, students and seniors \$5. Repeat on March 14.

Family Matinee presents the Etobicoke Children's Theatre production *Which Witch is Witch?* at 2:30 pm at Harbourfront York Quay Centre. Admission \$3, children and seniors \$2. Repeat on Sun. at 2:30 and 4 pm.

Nexus. The Toronto Art Production presents this popular music and dance of West African Master Drummer, Abraham Adzinyah at 8:30 pm at Town Hall, St. Lawrence Centre. Tickets \$6 and \$7. For reservations phone 366-7723.

Craft Courses. A two-day introductory course in feltmaking for Adults from 1 to 5 pm on Sat. and 9 am to 5 pm on Sun. Cost \$50 includes materials. At Harbourfront, York Quay Centre. Phone 869-8447 to register.

Sunday, March 14

Image Mass Murder 1976-1979 - A Complex Narrative by R Hambleton. Last chance to see this exhibition at Flavio Belli Gallery, 52 McCaul St. Show closes today.

Brunch with Bach Selections from Mozart, Ravel and Acadian music by vocalist Rosemarie Landry, flutist Robert Bick and pianist Steven Blier. Brunch at 11:30 am, concert 12:30 pm at Harbourfront, York Quay Centre. Admission adults \$8, students and seniors \$7.

Ontario Model Soldiers Society Meetings Don Melhuish discusses pinning figures and the use of modelling tools. At 1:30 pm at Harbourfront York Quay Centre. Admission free.

Native Canadian Centre Talent Night. Native performance at 8 pm at Native Canadian Centre, 16 Spadina Rd. Admission \$1.50. For more info phone 964-9183.

Traditional Tastes. Music from the British Isles with Margaret Christel. At 2 pm at Harbourfront York Quay Centre. Admission free.

Nightwood Theatre presents *Hooligans, The Art and Loves of Isadora Duncan.* Until March 21, Wed. to Sat. 8:30 pm. Sun. 2:30 pm. at the Theatre Centre, 666 King St. W. (King and Bathurst) 862-0659.

Bread and Roses Credit Union Annual General Meeting at 519 Church St. Mondragon film and discussion at 5 pm. Potluck dinner at 6:15 pm. Meeting at 7:30 pm. Child-care provided.

Monday, March 15

Consumers Association of Canada (Toronto) is holding its Annual Meeting at 7:15 at North York Community Hall, 5090 Yonge St. The public are invited and admission is free. At 8 pm speakers will discuss *Issues in Housing.*



Sneazy Waters and The Excellent Band. At Albert's Hall, Ye Olde Brunswick House, 481 Bloor St. W. Show ends March 20.

The Settlement of Refugees from Southeast Asia in Ontario 1979-80. An exhibit at Pape/Danforth Library, until end of March.

Centre for Spanish Speaking People is running an Income Tax Clinic for lower income earners until April 29 on Mondays and Wednesdays from 6:30 - 8:30 pm at 582A College St. (near Bathurst).

Fight the Right Festival A planning meeting for a day of workshops and cultural events on May 1, at 519 Church St. Community Centre at 8 pm. Open to all who are interested. For more info phone Bob at 537-5540.

Action Art Gallery has a display of original paintings, prints and reproductions expressing in one way or another the mood, colour and excitement of physical activity. Gallery is located at 13 Irwin St. north of Wellesley, just west of Yonge.

NFB Films: Jack Hodgins' Island follows the life of Vancouver fiction writer Jack Hodgins at 7:30 pm and 9:30 pm. At Harbourfront York Quay Centre. Admission free.

Tuesday March 16

Four Canadian Sculptors Kantarodd, Marosan, Houpt, Liardi display their work until March 26 at Tafay Gallery, 98 Avenue Road. Gallery hours Tuesday to Friday 11 am-6 pm, Sat 11 am-5 pm.

Ecumenical Prayer Service & Public Demo in Solidarity with the People of Nicaragua fellowship and slides of Nicaragua, candlelight vigil in Nathan Philips Square, etc. Church of the Holy Trinity (beside Eaton Centre). 7:30 - midnight.



Napoleon The 1927 Abel Gance cinematic masterpiece at O'Keefe Centre until March 20 at 7:30 pm. Tickets \$20.50 and \$25.50. For reservations phone 698-2626 or BASS Ticket Outlets.

Frank and Sonya a play by David Leicester. A contemporary love story set against the harsh realities of a depressed economy. At Adelaide Court, 57 Adelaide St. E. at 8:30 pm. Tickets \$3.75. For reservations phone 363-6401. Performances on March 16, 17, 25 and 26.

Forum: Osteoporosis? What's That? Osteoporosis is not an inevitable process of aging. In this forum doctors and nutritionists explain some facts about the cause and prevention of this bone condition. At 8 pm at Town Hall, St. Lawrence Centre. Admission free.

NFB Films White collar firings and executive placement agencies are explored in *After the Axe* at 7:30 and 9:30 pm at Harbourfront's York Quay Centre. Admission free.

Reading Series Poet, playwright and novelist Ken Mitchell joins writer Robert Allen at 8:30 pm at Harbourfront, York Quay Centre. Admission free.

The Merchant of Venice Toronto Free Theatre in association with the Toronto Art Productions presents Shakespeare's classic romantic comedy. Tues-Fri at 8:30 pm, Sat at 5 and 9 pm. Sunday at 2:30 pm.

Tickets from \$6.50 to \$9, at 26 Berkeley St. For reservations phone 368-2856.

Wednesday, Mar. 17

Norman McLaren Retrospective. Classic film selections along with early works at 7:30 pm and 9 pm. At Harbourfront York Quay Centre. Admission free.

Mariposa Mainland presents **The Harmony Sisters** at 8:30 pm at Harbourfront York Quay Centre. Admission \$5

Thursday, March 18

Opera Showcase The Canadian Opera Company Ensemble discusses and performs excerpts from Verdi's *La Traviata* at 8 pm at Harbourfront York Quay Centre. Admission adults \$5, students and seniors \$4.

Quality Control a play by Paul Miliken about two drifters who meet in a Vancouver hotel room in the spring of 1970. A second play *Children of Night* by Paul Ledoux will be performed also. At 8:30 pm at the Adelaide Court, 57 Adelaide St. E. For reservations phone 363-6401. Performances on March 18, 19, 27 and 28. Tickets \$3.75.

Science and Madness a play by George F. Walker set on the Scottish Moors circa 1900. Presented by the NDWT Co. at the Toronto Free Theatre. For tickets and reservations phone 979-3005.

ATEED a programme of lectures and films etc for the ecology minded at 7:30 pm at Palmerston Library. Admission free.

Clarion Community Organizing Workshop for writers, researchers and people involved in their communities who want to help improve the *Clarion's* coverage of city issues. At the *Clarion* offices, 73 Bathurst St. (at King) from 7 to 9 pm. For more info phone 363-4404.

Diary of a Scoundrel is performed through Sunday at 8:30 by Humber College's Drama Dept. at Harbourfront, York Quay Centre. Admission adults \$5, students and seniors \$4.

Friday, March 19

Sardines and Salami a play by the Pelican Players about the problems of different cultural groups in society is presented at 8 pm at the Dufferin St. Clair Library, 1625 Dufferin St. Admission free. For child care phone 656-7075 at least one day prior to the performance.

Ten Days That Shook the World An extremely rare print of the film by Sergei Eisenstein based on the book by John Reed. At 7 pm at the Bathurst St. United Church, 736 Bathurst St. Admission by donation. Also showing on March 26.

The Carlo Levi Cultural Club presents the film *Norma Rae* at 7:30 pm at York Main Library, 1745 Eglinton Ave. W. (at Dufferin) Admission \$2. at the door.

Propaganda Cartoons of W.W. I and II. Fearsome wartime animation including Popeye in *Scrap the Japs*, and *You're a Sap, Mr. Jap*; Bob Clampett's *Meet John Doughboy*, *Cholly Polly The Fascist Parrot*, and more. At 11 pm at Bathurst St. United Church, 736 Bathurst St. Adult entertainment. Admission \$3. Also on March 26.

An evening with two Quebec feminists: Jovette Marchessault and Yvonne Klein will be reading in French and English from Marchessault's *Lesbian Chronicles*. An informal discussion will follow. Marchessault (author of *The Saga of Wet Hens*, currently playing at the Tarragon Theatre) is a playwright, novelist, sculptor and painter; Yvonne Klein is a teacher and writer, and a founding member of Newspace at Powerhouse and of the Center for Feminist Culture in Montreal. Limited seating — so come early. 8:30 pm, \$2, Maggie Bassett Studio, 322

Howland Ave. (side entrance to Tarragon Theatre.)

Saturday, March 20

Guided Missiles a play by Margie Rutledge about a 16 year old pregnant woman. At 8:30 pm at Adelaide Court, 57 Adelaide St. E. Tickets \$3.75. For reservations phone 363-6401. Performances on March 20, 21, 30 and 31.

Solidarity with the People of El Salvador Dance at 8 pm at 58 Cecil St. Admission \$3. For more info phone 593-4236.

Craft Courses. Three day introductory **Glassblowing** Course begins at 9 am to 9 pm at Harbourfront York Quay Centre. Fee \$85, materials \$20. To register phone 869-8424.

The Funnel Experimental Film Theatre presents filmmaker Robert Gutteridge who will give a talk on the development of cinematic apparatus. at 8 pm at 507 King St. E. Admission \$3.

The Congress of Canadian Women Annual General Membership Meeting at 11 Madison Ave. from 10 am - 4 pm. A light lunch will be served. For more info phone 532-7955.



Kaleidoscope gives kids a chance to use their noodles to create macaroni art, from 11:30 am to 5 pm at Harbourfront York Quay Centre. Repeat on Sunday.

New Moves a dance concert with Susan Cash and Associates at 8 pm at Harbourfront York Quay Centre. Admission adults \$5, students and seniors \$4.

Family Matinee of How I Wonder What You Are? Theatre Direct's rocking roller-skating production for kids seven and up at 2:30 pm at Harbourfront York Quay Centre. Admission adults \$3, students and seniors \$2. Repeat on Sunday at 2:30 and 4 pm.

An Evening of Poetry and Music at the Axle-Tree Coffee House at the Church of the Holy Trinity behind the Eaton Centre at 8 pm. Tonight's poet is Gary Geddes, singer and guitarist Robert Priest along with house musician Peter Acker.

Sardines and Salami a play by the Pelican Players at 8 pm at St Chad's Parish Hall, 1695 Dufferin St. Repeat performances on March 26, 27, April 2 and 3. For details see March 19.

Sunday, March 21

The Big Print Final opportunity to see major works by artists exploring prints on an architectural scale. From noon to 9 pm at Art Gallery, Harbourfront York Quay Centre.

Breakdown - One a collection of photographs by David Rasmus closes today in the Photograph Gallery, Harbourfront York Quay Centre.

Witches and Faggots, Dykes and Poofers. Reel To Real Film Festival presents this premier at 2 pm at Bloor Cinema (at Bathurst). Admission \$3.50. For more info phone 964-6901

Co-op Priorities and Strategies for a Co-op Future. A community workshop for members of co-ops and credit unions. At Neill-Wycik College, 96 Gerrard St. E. from 10 am-4 pm. Sponsored by the Co-op Future Directions Project. To register phone Donald Altman 967-5483. Small fee for lunch.

Spring Flower Show At Allen Gardens Domestic and exotic flowers and plants on display daily from 10 am - 5 pm. Located Jarvis and Gerrard St.

Andre Laplante pianist, performs music by Franz Liszt, Maurice Ravel, Rachmaninoff, Morel and Hetu. at 8 pm at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, King and Simcoe St. Sponsored by CBC Festival Toronto. For ticket info phone 925-3311 ext 4835.



International Day for Elimination of Racial Discrimination Speeches by Ray Stevenson, Delegate to World Peace Council 1981, and Wilson Head, Prof. of Sociology, York U. and performances by Black Theatre of Canada and Association for Native Development, and Chilean Music starts at 5 pm at Trinity United Church, 427 Bloor St. W. Daycare available. Presented by the Committee for the International Day for the Elimination of Rascism.

Monday, March 22

Whitenoise a punk jazz quintet led by Bill Grove at the Cameron Public House, 334 Queen St. W. at 9:30 pm. Cover charge \$2.50. Repeat performance on March 29.

Ken Whiteley and The Paradise Revue at the Albert's Hall, Ye Olde Brunswick House, 481 Bloor St. W. Show ends March 27.

The Censor directed by Gordon Lawson; **Prison for Women** by Janis Cole and Holly Dale and **Striptease** by Kay Armataged are shown at 7:30 pm at Harbourfront, York Quay Centre. Sponsored by National Film Board in celebration of Canadian Independent Filmmakers. Admission free.

Nuclear Power - Nuclear Weapons: An Asian Perspective A conference at 8 pm at Jesuit Centre, 947 Queen St. E. (corner of Carlaw and Queen). Speakers will be Dr. Yasuo Nakagawa, professor of History of Science and Technology at Kobe University, Japan and Mr. Peter Neu, Maryknoll Lay Missionary Centre for the Progress of Peoples, Hong Kong.

Hydrogen: Fuel for the Future? A seminar which will examine the potential for hydrogen as an energy currency, its advantages and disadvantages. At Ecology House, 12 Madison Ave. at 7:30 pm. Admission free.

Tuesday, March 23

Reading Series. Novelist/professor Jack Macleod, author of *Zinger and Me*, reads tonight at 8:30 pm at Harbourfront York Quay Centre. Admission free.

David Roche Times Three by David Roche. Three solo performances: *Dirt's My Profession*, a play about domestic labour; *David Roche Talks to You About Love* and *The Fire Show*, helpful hints on how to avoid a personal holocaust. At Adelaide Court, 57 Adelaide St. E. at 8:30 pm. Tickets \$3.75. For reservations phone 363-6401. Performances on March 23 and 24.

Craft Courses: Ten week ceramics course in Basic Throwing at 7 pm at Harbourfront York Quay Centre. Fee \$90. To register phone 869-8422.

Wednesday, Mar. 24

Weatherizing: Heat Your Home Not Your Neighbourhood. A seminar at 7 pm at Ecology House, 12 Madison Ave. Admission \$3.

Arthritis: A Dialogue with Pain, an hour long film followed by a panel discussion and question and answer session. Presented in co-operation with the Arthritis Society. At 8 pm at Town Hall, St. Lawrence Centre.

Students In El Salvador: Under the Gun at 2 pm at Hart House, U of T. Sponsored by the Committee of Solidarity with the People of El Salvador.

El Salvador: A Question of Conscience. A discussion by the Parliamentary Committee who have just returned from El Salvador. At 7:30 pm at 252 Bloor St. W. Sponsored by The Committee of Solidarity with the People of El Salvador.

Thursday, Mar. 25

Seeds of Liberty, a film at 7:30 pm at St. Peter's Church, Bloor and Bathurst. Bill Ford, brother of Ida Ford, murdered U.S. nun, will speak. For further info phone Florie at 593-4236 for details of events for the week of Solidarity With The People of El Salvador.

Regina Modern Dance Works in performance at Harbourfront, Studio Theatre, York Quay Centre. For ticket info call 869-8412. Show ends Mar. 28.



Jazz Concert. Womyn's Way Productions presents vocalist **Teresa Trull** and pianist **Juli Homi** at 8 pm at Harbourfront, York Quay Centre. Admission \$6. Free child care provided by phoning 961-1768.

Friday, Mar. 26

Fascism: Culture During the Fascist Period. A lecture by J. Baglieri of York University, at 8 pm at 1347 Davenport Rd. Sponsored by the Carlo Levi Cultural Club. Lecture will be in English.

Public Place — Private Space. Works by sculptors Robert Bowers, Wyn Geleynse and Walter Redinger in the Art Gallery, York Quay Centre, Harbourfront.

Music Makers. Mr. Dressup's Eric Nagler spends a day with kids 5 years and up exploring the world of music. From 10 am to 4 pm, at Harbourfront, York Quay Centre. Admission \$5.

Dynamic Doodlers Funny Film Factory Learn how to make animated films without cameras. Participants will produce surprising and humorous visual effects. For ages 10 to 15. From 9:30 to 11:30 on Fridays and Saturdays at the Main St. Library. You must attend both sessions to help make the film. Preregister at the library. Limited to 25 people. 694-6054 for more info.

Passchendaele is presented by the Necessary Angel Theatre Co. Previews to April 1; April 2 to 25, Tuesday to Sunday, 8 pm. Sunday aft. at 2:30 pm. at the Theatre Centre, 666 King St. W. 862-0659. From the creators of **Tamara**.

Blue Banner presents **Three Sisters**, March 15, 16, 21 at 8:30 pm. March 17 to 20 at 10:30 pm. at the Theatre Centre, 666 King St. W. 862-0659.



Continue The Resistance of the Cruise Missile. An intensive preparation and training regarding the legalities and non-violent direct action. On Friday from 7:30 to 10:30 pm. and Sat. from 10 am to 6 pm, at 730 Bathurst St.

Memorial for Archbishop Oscar Romero, Assassinated in 1980 For Opposing the Junta, at St. Peter's Church, Bathurst and Bloor at 7:30 pm.

Spring Tune-Up Concert featuring artists Margaret Cristel, Mose Scarlett, and storyteller Dan Yashinsky, along with other local folk performers. Festival starts Friday evening and continues all day Saturday and finishes Sat. night with a dance party with music by the Boston Folk Ensemble, Friends of Fiddler's Green and Comhaltas Geoltoiri Eireann. At Scadding Court Community Centre, 707 Dundas St. W. For more info and advance tickets phone 691-1113.

The Funnel Experimental Film Theatre presents the work of two local filmmakers, Paul McGowan and Richard Kerr. The screening accompanies a show of drawings and paintings in the Funnel Gallery. At 8 pm. at 507 King St. E. Admission \$3.

Saturday, Mar. 27

National Day of Action — Lesbians Fighting the Right. Starting at noon workshops, music, art, dance and discussions. At Metropolitan Community Church, 730 Bathurst St. Sponsored by Lesbians Against the Right.

Bayefsky Retrospective. The Market Gallery of the City of Toronto Archives presents Bayefsky's Toronto, a celebration of the city and its people. Gallery is located at 95 Front St. E. Admission free. Gallery hours Wed. - Fri. 10 am to 5 pm., Sat. 9 am to 9 pm., Sun. 2 to 5 pm. Show ends May 30.



Solidarity With The People of El Salvador March. Meet at 11 am at Christie Pitts and march to the U.S. consulate.

Sunday, Mar. 28

Kaleidoscope: Kids taste maple syrup and build popsicle stick log cabins from 11:30 am to 5 pm at Harbourfront, York Quay Centre. Free.

Mitzie Collins and Tom Bohrer bring to life the most familiar folk play in the English language, *Punch and Judy*, in their simple glove puppet selves. At Innis College Town Hall, St. George and Sussex Ave. For reservations and tickets phone 363-4009.

The Persecution and Assassination of Jean-Paul Marat As Performed By The Inmates of the Asylum of Charenton Under the Direction of the Marquis de Sade, by Peter Weiss. Confined to a mental asylum in 1797, the aged Marquis de Sade staged productions of his own works using the inmates as performers. At 7 pm at Towne Hall, St. Lawrence Centre, 27 Front St. E. Tickets \$6. For reservations phone 366-7723.

Donna. Reel to Real Film Festival presents this film at 2 pm at Bloor Cinema (just east of Bathurst). Admission \$3.50. For more info call 964-6901.

Monday, March 29

Social Movement, Social Change: The Re-Making of Latin America. A conference sponsored by the Dept. of Educational Planning, OISE, and the Chile Ontario Information Centre. This is a 3 day conference with speakers from Argentina, Chile, Mexico, Brazil, Nicaragua and El Salvador. Registration fee \$75 including a wine and cheese party. For more info call Jorge Gilbert, Dept. of Educational Planning, OISE, 252 Bloor St. W., 923-6641, ext. 326.

CUSO Informational Meeting at 33 St. George St. from 7:30 pm to 9:30 pm. For more info call 978-4022.

Tuesday, March 30

The Role of Community Education Within the Nishnawbe-Aski Nation. A discussion by Jane Henson about the work of the Nishnawbe-Aski Commission whose mandate is the development of self-government. At 7:30 pm. at the Cross Cultural Community Centre, 1991 Dufferin St.

Poetry Reading by Dale Zeiroth of Vancouver at 7:30 pm. at Parliament St. Library. Coffee will be supplied.

Reading Series. Cuban-American author Heberto Padilla and Chilean-Canadian poet Naim Nomez will read in Spanish and English at 8:30 pm. at Harbourfront, York Quay Centre. Admission free.

Wednesday, Mar. 31

Forum: Medication In Mental Hospitals. The panelists will discuss the use of medication in mental hospitals and its relationship to the consent of the individual under the Mental Health Act. At 8 pm. at Towne Hall, St. Lawrence Centre. Admission free.

Hydroponic Gardening. A seminar about the many different approaches to hydroponic gardening. At 7 pm. at Ecology House, 12 Madison Ave. Admission \$3.

Thursday, April 1

Action Daycare is an organization of parents, daycare workers and community groups working for the development of a free universal daycare system. Meetings are held on the first Thursday of each month at 19 Carr St. For more info call 362-1033.

Unmailed letters, a play by D. Ann Taylor about a personal odyssey through the jungle of men and pornography. At 8:30 pm. at Adelaide Court, 57 Adelaide St. E. Tickets \$3.75. For reservations call 363-6401. Performances on April 1 and 2.

Friday, April 2

Ontario College of Art students will present their best works from the current school year at The Funnel Experimental Film Theatre, 507 King St. E. at 8 pm. Admission free.

The Battle of Algiers (1965) is presented by the Carlo Levi Cultural Club at 7:30 pm. at York Main Library, 1745 Eglinton Ave. W. (at Dufferin). Admission \$2 at the door.

Saturday, April 3



David Campbell and Friends in Concert at 8 pm. at St. Paul's Centre at Trinity Church, 427 Bloor St. W. near Spadina. Advance tickets at DEC Books, 427 Bloor St. W. at \$7.50, or at the door at \$8.50.

Critical Issues: Women, Work, Change. The first of a series of 3 workshops to examine issues of new technology for working women. From 8:30 am. to 3 pm. at OISE, 252 Bloor St. W. Workshops continue on April 17 and 24. To register contact Humber College, 1669 Eglinton Ave. W. Fee \$15 each session or \$35 for complete series.

Shivaree by John Beckwith and James Reaney. Comus Music Theatre presents the world premiere of a Canadian opera set in rural Ontario at the turn of the century, when this rowdy celebration kept many an eager bridegroom from his conjugal bed. At 8:30 pm at Towne Hall, St. Lawrence Centre. Tickets from \$10. For reservations call 366-7723. Until April 6.

Sunday, April 4

Spring Concert By The Exultate Chamber Singers at the Maurice Cody Hall, St. Paul's Anglican Church, 227 Bloor St. E. at 3 pm. Tickets \$5, students and seniors \$4, available through the Exultate Chamber Singers, 227 Bloor St. E.

Deadly Force. Reel to Real Film Festival presents this premier at 2 pm. at Bloor Cinema (just east of Bathurst St.) Admission \$3.50. For more info call 964-6901.

Monday, April 5

Jorge Bolet, pianist, performs the music of Franz Liszt, Chopin, and Bach. At 8 pm. at St. Andrew's Presbyterian Church, King and Simcoe. Sponsored by CBC Festival Toronto. For ticket info phone 925-3311, ext. 4835.

Tuesday, April 6

Romantic Women Composers A lecture/concert at 5:30 pm. at Trinity United Church, 427 Bloor St. W., featuring Gaynor Jones. Sponsored by Collegium Artists Management. Admission \$5.

Wednesday, April 7

Forum: Agricultural Issues for Urban Dwellers. Dr. Clay Gibson of the Agricultural Institute of Canada and Lorne Hurd, General Manager of the Ontario Milk Marketing Board, participate on a panel to discuss farm issues that are important to urban dwellers. The moderator will be Dr. Switzer, Dean of the Agricultural College of Guelph. At 8 pm. at Towne Hall, St. Lawrence Centre. Admission free.

Thursday, Apr. 8

Menahem Pressler and Friends. An evening of piano quartets with the renowned pianist of the Beaux Arts Trio. At 8:30 pm. at Towne Hall, St. Lawrence Centre. Tickets \$10 and \$11. For reservations call 366-7723.

Boojers, a play by Alan Filewood. Set against the backdrop of the Boer War. At 8:30 pm. at the Adelaide Court, 57 Adelaide St. E. Tickets \$3.75. For reservations call 363-6401. Performances on April 8, 9, 17 and 18.

Toronto Independent Dance Enterprise in collaboration with The New Music Co-operative, presents its new piece "Colliding" at 8 pm. at Harbourfront, York Quay Centre. Until April 11. For ticket info call 869-8412.

Friday, April 9

Fourth Annual Good Friday Liturgy and Witness of Resistance at the Litton Systems Plant (Makers of the guidance system of the cruise missile). Service at 11 am. at Bloor St. United Church, 300 Bloor St. E., then depart for Litton at 12 noon in a motorcade route. Buses will be provided for those without cars. Fee \$1. For more info call 968-9264.

Intellectuals and Society — Gramsci. A lecture by Prof. E. Bisztray of University of Toronto at 8 pm. at 1347 Davenport Rd. (just east of Dufferin). Lecture is presented by the Carlo Levi Cultural Club.



Saturday, Apr. 10

Soaring, a play by Bryan Wade about an obscene phone caller who meets his nemesis in the form of a young woman intent on revenge. At 8:30 pm. at Adelaide Court, 57 Adelaide St. E. Tickets \$3.75. For reservations phone 363-6401. Performances on April 10, 11, 20, 21.

Monday, April 12

The Opium War (China 1959) and The Riddle of the Sands (Britain 1979). The Toronto Film Society presents screenings for members in its 1981/82 International Series at 7:30 pm. at Towne Hall, St. Lawrence Centre. For more info call 923-6988.

Tuesday, April 13

Lawrence Pitchko, pianist, in a concert of Brahms, Debussy and Liszt at 8 pm. at the Towne Hall, St. Lawrence Centre. Tickets \$8. For reservations call 366-7723.

Tower, a play by Lawrence Jeffery about power politics on Bay Street. At 8:30 pm. at Adelaide Court, 57 Adelaide St. E. Tickets \$3.75. For reservations call 363-6401. Performances April 13, 14, 22 and 23.

Thursday, April 15

Thumper, a play by Bryden MacDonald about a group of teenagers' Friday night party which turns into a nightmare of horror. At 8:30 pm. at Adelaide Court, 57 Adelaide St. E. Tickets \$3.75. For reservations call 363-6401. It runs April 15, 16, 24 and 25.

Borodin Quartet. USSR's greatest chamber ensemble in concert at 8:30 pm. at the Towne Hall, St. Lawrence Centre. Tickets \$10 and \$11. For reservations call 366-7723.

Danceworks 26. Performances are scheduled thru to April 18 at the Studio Theatre, 80 Winchester St. Showtime 8 pm., tickets \$5. For reservations call 367-1416.

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Nervous Laughter

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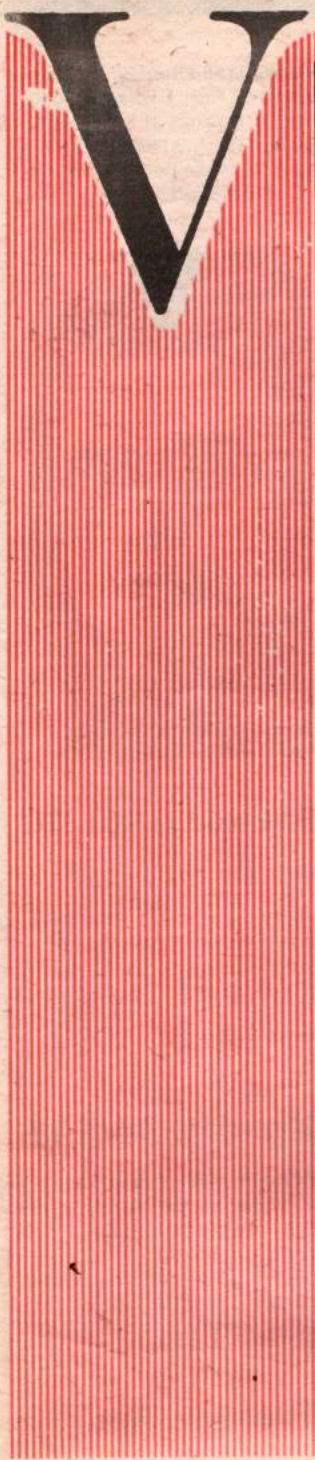
Special Benefit performance

Thursday, May 27

Reserve your tickets by calling the Development Education Centre at 964-6560 or the Clarion at 363-4404.

Tickets: \$8.00

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Sat. Mar. 20
8 P.M.

**Dance
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\$3.00

58 Cecil (near Spadina)



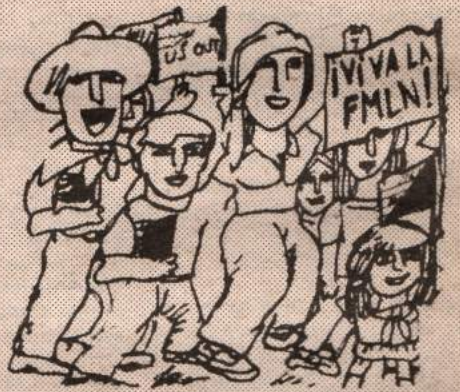
DEMONSTRATION

Sat. Mar. 27

No U.S. Intervention

11 A.M. at Christie Pits (on Bloor)
12:30 at U.S. Consulate

(University south of Dundas)



March 24

**Students in El Salvador:
Under the gun.**
Hart House, UofT 2 pm

El Salvador: A Question of Conscience
Speakers: Parliamentary
Committee just returned
from El Salvador,
252 Bloor St. W. 7:30

March 23

**What does the FDR
stand for?**
St. Peter's Church,
Bathurst & Bloor 7:30

March 25

Film "Seeds of Liberty"
St. Peter's Church,
Bathurst & Bloor, 7:30

March 26

**Memorial for Arch-
bishop Romero: Assas-
inated in 1980 for op-
posing the junta.**
St. Peter's Church,
Bathurst & Bloor, 7:30



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